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Amongst heated debate, faculty discusses private society question

Isserman predicts frats will be gone, says they "kill people"

by Erin Weaver '05
NEWS WRITER

At the last faculty meeting on Tuesday, December 9th, various members of the faculty discussed the controversial issues of residential life, alcohol abuse, and private societies.

Professor of history Doug Ambrose presented the findings of the Residential Life Committee, one of the three committees comprised of faculty members and students (the other two are Judicial Affairs and Co-Cirricular Activities). While Ambrose began his presentation by noting his committee "is not making any recommendations to the Presidential Coalition at this time," he remarked: "The role of private societies has come up again and again."

Ambrose spoke of a "specific and separate initiative regarding what the role of private societies should be in the future." He said that the ResLife Committee supports "eliminating off-campus housing as soon as possible," as well as "removing students from buildings that don't meet code," or that are overcrowded. He cited the DKE house and Kirkland as examples of residence halls that are under investigation.

Ambrose also stated a "thorough" review of the lottery system was underway. He mentioned ideas to facilitate changes in the current system, such as reducing the number of students a fellow student may pull and restricting members of private societies from pulling fellow members; however, he noted that to implement the latter idea would "violate College policy of associating with College-sponsored societies."

He spoke emphatically about increasing the number of area coordinators on campus from two to five, noting that Hamilton has the lowest ratio of students to area coordinators, or persons in a similar position, of any NESCAC school. Ambrose called for "a greater integration of academic and residential life" through the creation of "theme housing" or "the creation of language houses."

After Ambrose presented his findings, the floor was opened to other faculty members to discuss the current residential situation and its social and academic implications. Professor of English Nat Strout said that the College should "penalize private societies for holding parties during the week," an idea he called "particularly bad." Strout asked Ambrose what the ResLife committee was doing about this trend, and Ambrose remarked that his committee was "not discussing" off-campus parties.

The issue of academic-theme housing was of particular interest to the faculty.

Ambrose said: "Many people on the committee believe, I think, that [academic-theme housing] is contrary to liberal arts housing, as there should be no segregation, even academic." He noted: "It's about a balance with space, with what we have available, but it's something we're willing to do." He continued: "All people are going to organize themselves in social

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PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

The panel at Tuesday's Town Hall Meetingon "Social Activity and Alcohol Policy" faces the audiences inquiries

ISC, Student Assembly co-sponsor Town Hall Meeting on social and alcohol policies

by Ian Mandel '06
NEWS EDITOR

The Intersociety Council (ISC) and Student Assembly co-sponsored a "Social Activity and Alcohol Policy Town Meeting" on Tuesday, December 9. The event featured a panel of administrators, faculty and students, and addressed issues relevant to student social and residential life. The panel and the audience engaged in an interactive discussion on issues ranging from the College's alcohol policy, to new options for educating freshman.

The panel featured Director of Residential Life Jeff Landry, Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnarelli, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Bob Kazin, Professor Philip Klinkner, and students Bill Chenevert '05, Nathaly Francois '04 and Elizabeth Dolan '05. The panelists were selected to include students, administrators and a representative from the faculty, to provide a diverse set of viewpoints.

"The intentions are to get students to realize that change needs to happen and that we are the primary facilitators of change on this campus. Especially to involve the administration and the faculty and to get everyone on the same page to share ideas, to break down stereotypes and to understand where everyone is coming from," said ISC Philanthropy Chair Celine Geiger.

As a member of both ISC and of Student Assembly, Beth Conway '05 explained that both student organizations independently made plans to organize a student forum to allow students an opportunity to voice their opinions.

"We [the ISC and Student Assembly] thought it was a good idea for the student body to discuss and deliberate what is going on in terms of social policy. We feel that there is a lot of unwarranted animosity towards the administration and we wanted to clear the air. We wanted students to have their voice heard by the administration and vice-versa," Conway said.

ISC President Rachel Geringer-Dunn '04 further commented on the combined efforts of the two organizations: "The reality is that it's a community-wide situation and everyone needs to take some responsibility, and that's why the ISC wanted to cosponsor this with Student Assembly. If it was something that we [the ISC] just did, then it would focus more on the Greek aspect of it."

Part of the Town Hall Meeting focused on the issue of alcohol consumption at Hamilton. Klinkner, Magnarelli, Landry, Kazin and Dolan are all members of the recently reconstituted Coalition on Alcohol. President Joan Hinde Stewart announced on December 1 that the Coali-

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Smooth exit tougher than swift win in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight months after toppling Saddam Hussein, the United States is again pushing for regime change in Iraq. This time, it wants itself out.

If all goes as planned, the U.S. role in Iraq will be greatly diminished in a year. The U.S.-led occupation will end and Iraqis will run the country through an interim government as they write a constitution and prepare for elections. The number of U.S. troops would also be reduced, with Iraqis taking a greater role in providing security.

But those plans are riddled with uncertainties.

Can the United States reduce its forces and rely on hastily trained Iraqi security forces to fight elusive guerrillas capable of striking almost any target? Will Iraq be safe enough to allow the economy to grow without billions more from U.S. taxpayers? And can Iraqis with little democratic experience take over the country sooner than the Bush administration had originally planned, then stick to a tight schedule for holding elections and writing a constitution by the end of 2005?

"The challenge is we now have a small window where we really have to convince Iraqis that they are in control," and that the fight between U.S. forces and and Saddam loyalists is a fight for their future, said John Hamre, the No. 2 official in the Pentagon under President Clinton who headed a Pentagon advisory panel on Iraq.

Hamre said the overall situation in Iraq "is far from uniformly bleak," but the security problem is serious.

"My worry is I don't sense that the momentum is on our side," he said.

It's a far cry from the heady days of April after U.S. troops advanced rapidly into Baghdad and Iraqi crowds toppled a 40-foot statue of deposed leader Saddam Hussein.

So much went well for the United States early in the war. The advance was quick, casualties were minimal and Iraqis seemed to welcome the Americans. Food shortages and other expected humanitarian crises never happened.

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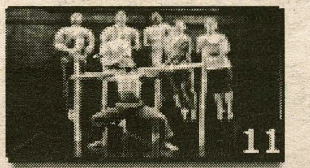

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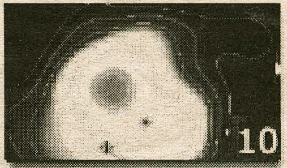

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Professors Isserman, Strout and Ambrose attack fraternities

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groups no matter what you do, so we might as well take advantage of the natural process."

After Ambrose made this point, professor of English John O'Neill suggested that the faculty "move forward on this point alone," and the discussion of residential life was extended to thirty minutes, as it falls within the perimeters of faculty meeting.

Professor of history Maurice Isserman took the floor after the faculty voted to extend the discussion.

"I strongly support changing the number of students living in the village to zero," he said, adding that the residential life issue, with regards to social and academic life, is "the most important issue facing this College." Isserman also voiced his dislike of members of private societies living with other members of their society.

Strout responded: "As long as we have private societies, we need to have something to balance private societies, because they turn out to be party organizations and that's unfortunate."

Isserman continued, armed with a copy of the 1995 Residential Life Decision.

"Its [the ResLife Decision] implementation did not have the effect its authors believed," Isserman said. "I wish we could put the Office of Admissions in charge of Residential Life."

Isserman went on to relate stories of Hamilton students who were disappointed and "felt cheated" by the prevalence of Greek life on campus. Isserman stated that the 1995 Decision and its implementation, or lack thereof, "insults the intelligence of the community."

"I think it's intolerable," Isserman added. "I predict here and now that by 2012 we will do away with fraternities. Reason will prevail. We'll stop pledging, we'll wrap them up. They will carry on until they kill somebody. Frats kill people. They kill people at Colgate, they kill people at SUNY Potsdam."

Professor of anthropology Douglas Raybeck spoke after Isserman finished. Alarmed by last week's *Spectator* article detailing the events of TDX's November Nothin' Fancy party, Raybeck said: "I will not abide bad behavior."

He then presented an interview he conducted with one of the bus drivers from the November 13th party. The driver, a 35 year old woman employed by First Student Bus Company, cracked two ribs while attempting to drive Hamilton students to the Nothin' Fancy Café in Vernon. She told Raybeck she had "never encountered an incident of this nature before." She spoke of bringing two bus loads of "fun and pleasant" students to the party before the incident in question occurred. She returned to North Lot to find students blocking the entrance path. She opened the bus door, only to have it "pulled back and broken." She noted students "swearing loudly and acting in an intimidating fashion," which "frightened her." Raybeck concluded by saying the driver was "still very shaken by this event."

Professor of history Shoshanna Keller later remarked that a "New England chapter of PBX killed somebody." She said the "off-campus party non-policy has shielded College responsibility...we cannot solve this problem with the existing system."

Student on-lookers were confused by Keller's comments, being that all Hamilton sororities, including PBX, are local and unique to Hamilton.

A debate ensued between professor of government Philip Klinkner, Strout, and Isserman.

Klinkner said: "A lot of the problems we're seeing with alcohol take place on campuses without fraternities and sororities...before we go after fraternities and sororities let's think about what the evidence shows here."

Klinkner noted that "sorority sisters are the most satisfied students...we shouldn't get rid of our most satisfied students."

Strout asked Klinkner to clarify his position, and added that the "solution has to be local to Hamilton."

Strout suggested sophomore pledging and no mid-week parties as ways to facilitate change within the system.

Klinker responded: "Student satisfaction with just about every aspect of Hamilton is the highest it's ever been. The most dissatisfied members on campus are fraternity brothers. We need to go at this in a level-headed way."

Professor of English Katie Kodat settled the point: "We shouldn't assume one way or another, we should ask questions."

Professor of philosophy Celeste Friend raised another relevant question regarding student alcohol consumption and the New York State law.

"Students on campus are breaking the law," she said. "If I were breaking New York State law, I would expect to be punished. Aren't we teaching them [students] a bad lesson?"

Associate Dean of Students Nancy Thompson offered Friend an answer; she noted the difficulty of policing the twenty-one and over drinking law, saying that to do so would require hiring more Campus Safety Officers.

To this point, professor of French Martine Guyot-Bender related a story which she felt demonstrated "the loyalty of campus security officers to fraternities." She explained that upon returning to campus one Sunday morning, she found "twenty to thirty pig's feet" in the Dunham parking lot. Guyot-Bender asked an on-duty Campus Safety Officer why there were pig's feet scattered throughout the parking lot, and the officer replied "it's just the frats."

Upon retrieving a book from her office, she returned "not even ten minutes later" to find the pig's feet had disappeared. "My suspicions," Guyot-Bender concluded, "are that security was protecting them [the fraternity members]."

The frustrations and concerns of the faculty did not seem to be resolved by the conclusion of the meeting. Debate will continue in the future. One faculty member called for an annual report from the Dean of Students Office regarding these controversial and important issues.

Town Hall Meeting provides Hamilton community with forum for discussion

*from **ISC**, page 1*

tion has been charged with evaluating issues involving alcohol at Hamilton. Members of the Coalition have expressed the desire to hear student input and opinion to better understand the problem.

"I think a big part of this is that there is a coalition that has been formed, but there are only so many voices that get to be heard. And when I speak to administrators and students that are on the committee, they want to hear what other students have to say," said ISC Representative Sarah Mald '05.

"The idea of personal responsibility and responsibility for our peers [was discussed]," Conway said, "as well as how much alcohol people are drinking and the amount of vandalism on campus."

Conway elaborated, expressing her belief that the Town Hall Meeting helped attending students realize the seriousness of the current situation.

"I think people are really aware of it now. I think students are really aware now that policies will be really be changing," Conway added.

The discussion of alcohol consumption eventually focused on alternative social options on campus. The idea of adding a student union that would give students a place to congregate during the week and on the weekends seemed to go over well.

"I think it's a great idea. I understand why it's hard to make it happen because funds aren't up for grabs, but I think that it's a very good way to provide a place for people to hang out without having to be at a party," Chenevert said.

Also discussed were the ideas of making an all-freshman dorm that would allow freshman to create a singular community without the presence and influence of upperclassmen. Other topics included the discussion of implementing educational programs specifically designed to target freshman, with the purpose of providing education on alcohol.

There were conflicting views about the success of the event.

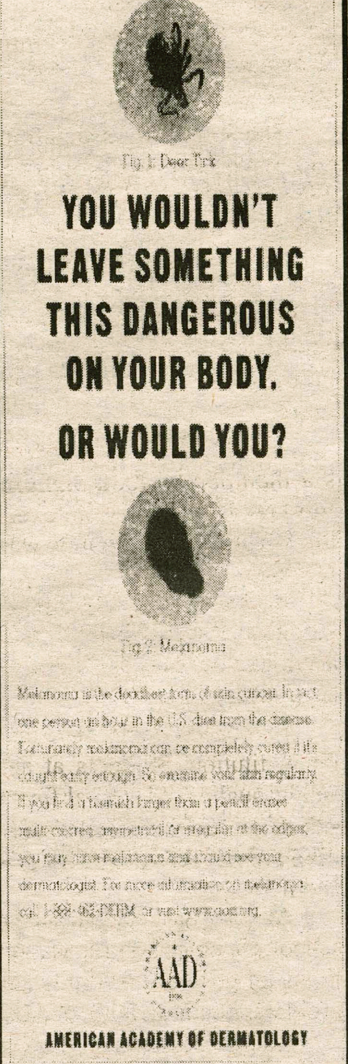
"I was greatly disappointed in the lack of Student Assembly members, ISC members, Greek-society members, faculty members and students in general. But I do think that the people who showed up proved their passion and their commitment to creating a better social environment at Hamilton," Geiger said.

Chenevert disagreed, however, stating, "I was very pleased with the attendance compared with the panel that happened before Thanksgiving break; however, you could tell that almost ninety-percent of the students in the Chapel were Greek, so it made me wonder if the social life at Hamilton is of concern to anyone but those who are in Greek societies. I would have also liked to see some more faculty members. Only Professor Klinkner was there to represent their viewpoint."

Conway echoed Chenevert's sentiment, noting, "We had good attendance; students and faculty were in attendance, and I think that it was really great because students weren't afraid to voice their opinions."

Regardless of attendance, Geringer-Dunn was glad that the event was held.

"I think we needed to bring to light some issues and to really lay them out on the table," she said. "We've been skirting around a number of issues for a long time and we needed a forum that would be open to

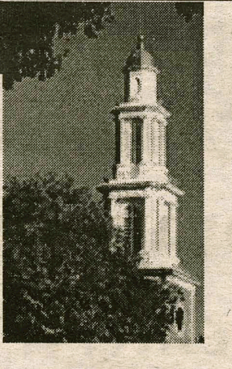


Clarification: In the December 5, 2003 issue of *The Spectator*, the article "Dolan, Long to head Student Assembly after uncontested election: Election is not protested despite election rules violations" implied that Elizabeth Dolan and Jeff Long violated rules regarding the placement of campaign material. The statements in the article were meant to convey that any election, including the one held last week, may be challenged if there is illegal placement of campaign materials; however, Dolan and Long did not violate any such rules.

Congratulations to Kathleen M. McGrory, *The Spectator's* new Editor-in-Chief!!!

News
The Spectator

IVORY TOWERS



THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Student 'Sex Bracelets' an Urban Legend?

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — Orange, red, blue, black — they're just thin, rubbery bracelets that come in a rainbow of colors, but they're causing quite a stir.

First made popular by Madonna and other pop stars in the 1980s, "jelly bracelets" are making a comeback with teens and some grade-school kids. But this time, there's a twist: In some parts of the U.S., they're calling them "sex bracelets" — with various colors supposedly representing promises to perform sex acts in a game called "Snap."

As the story goes, break someone's orange bracelet (or purple, in some cases) and you get a kiss. Red, a lap dance. Blue, oral sex. Black, intercourse. And so on.

"They've been selling like crazy," says Andy Ball, a clerk at The Alley, an edgy clothing and accessories store in Chicago. He says he learned about their secret meaning from a group of teens who came into the store about a month ago.

Still, it's unclear whether young people are really following through with the sex acts. And some experts think most youth are hearing about the game from recent news reports, not each other.

Snopes.com, a Web site dedicated to exposing urban legends, has deemed the validity of sex bracelets "undetermined."

"Every now and then, I get a note from kids who say it is true," says Barbara Mikkelson, Snopes.com's co-founder. "But I get a heck of a lot of e-mails from kids who are outraged that adults think they would do this. To them, [the bracelets] are just a fashion statement."

"It's kind of outrageous and ridiculous. I think the media is making an issue out of nothing," says Kelly Egarian, a 17-year-old from Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, who serves as a consultant for Teenage Research Unlimited, a suburban Chicago firm that tracks youth trends.

In fact, when the staff at Teenage Research asked its 300-some young consultants nationwide about sex bracelets, they found nothing concrete.

Grambling Keeps Accreditation

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Grambling State University's accreditation — once threatened because of years of bad bookkeeping — was fully restored Tuesday, saving the historically black school from a potentially fatal blow.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools had placed the north Louisiana university on probation in 2001, after financial records from the school dating to 1997 were found to be inadequate.

However, an October audit by Louisiana's legislative auditor showed improvement and association officials who recently visited Grambling said in a report released last month that the school achieved a "remarkable transformation" in financial management.

"We can now say that Grambling State University is a member in good standing with no conditions," said David A. Carter, an executive with the accrediting agency. The agency was meeting in Nashville Tuesday.

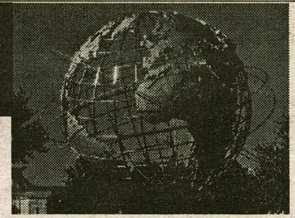
In dealing with Grambling's probation, the accrediting agency had to either fully restore or revoke Grambling's accreditation. Tuesday's decision maintains the school's accreditation until 2010.

Revocation could have been deadly to the century-old institution. Students at an unaccredited university cannot qualify for federal financial aid — about 90 percent of its students receive such aid — and their degrees often are not recognized by graduate schools or professional boards.

An October legislative auditor's report said the school's financial records accurately reflected Grambling's financial position. Auditors said 13 of 14 bookkeeping problems found in 2002 had been corrected.

Acting Grambling president Neari Warner shared the good news in a video hookup with students assembled in a room on campus.

WORLD NEWS



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Iraq Suicide Attack Kills 1 U.S. Soldier

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Three suicide bombers in a furniture truck blew themselves up at the gates of a U.S. Army base Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding 14. It was the third suicide attack on American troops in Iraq this week. Meanwhile, three loud explosions boomed early Friday in the "Green Zone," the compound housing the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition, in central Baghdad.

A coalition spokesman said two projectiles hit "in the vicinity of the Green Zone," causing minor damage to one building but no casualties. He couldn't confirm whether the building was in the zone. Insurgents last month targeted the compound with mortars.

In Thursday's suicide attack, three wounded soldiers were evacuated from the headquarters of the 82nd Airborne Division west of Baghdad to a combat hospital and the other 11 wounded were treated and returned to duty, the U.S. military reported.

There were no U.S. fatalities in the previous two suicide attacks this week, indicating defenses erected at American facilities were paying off.

If the explosions in Baghdad on Friday occurred inside the Green Zone, it would be the first time in several weeks that the seat of power of the U.S.-led coalition power was hit.

Charles Krohn, a Pentagon press official, said by telephone from his room inside the Green Zone that he heard the explosions.

Arafat Hints Recognition of Jewish State

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat indicated he accepts Israel as a Jewish state and that Jews have a religious link to Jerusalem, according to the summary of an interview made available Thursday.

AP

In the past, Palestinian officials have rejected the Jewish claim to a hotly disputed holy site in the Old City of Jerusalem by claiming that the biblical Jewish Temples never existed, and have not acknowledged that Israel should be a Jewish state.

American Jewish activist Henry Siegman talked with Arafat recently, and the veteran Palestinian leader addressed the concerns, according to the summary released by Siegman's group, the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations.

Arafat said that the Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a state they want to create and insist on sovereignty over the disputed site, where the Al Aqsa Mosque compound is now located.

French Panel Favors Ban on Head Scarves

PARIS (AP) — A presidential commission on Thursday backed a ban on Islamic head scarves in public schools - stepping into the wrenching debate over how to preserve the country's secular identity while integrating France's Muslim population, the largest in Western Europe.

If it becomes law, the measure would also bar other conspicuous religious symbols, including Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses. The commission spent six months studying the issue and held 120 hearings, collecting testimony from experts across Europe.

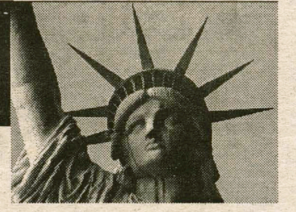
French President Jacques Chirac, who in the past has made clear his opposition to head scarves in the classroom, is expected on Wednesday to announce in an address to the nation whether he supports enacting the panel's recommendations into law.

For nearly 15 years, France has debated the issue, but it has taken on new life during the past two years with the expulsion of dozens of girls from school for refusing to remove their scarves.

Bernard Stasi, who headed the commission, said the proposed law was aimed at keeping France's strict secular underpinnings intact and at countering "forces that are trying to destabilize the country," a reference to Islamic fundamentalists.

Stasi said the commission's was not discriminating against France's Muslim community but sought to give all religions a more equal footing.

NATIONAL NEWS



Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Flu Outbreak Now Widespread in 24 States

ATLANTA (AP) — The number of states hit hard by the flu has nearly doubled to 24 in the past week, the government said Thursday as it rushed to ship 100,000 doses of the vaccine to combat shortages and head off what could become one of the worst flu seasons in years.

The outbreak has taken an enormous toll nationwide: At least 23 children have died. Schools have shut down. Emergency rooms have been filled with sick children. And doctors' offices have been forced to turn away droves of people seeking flu shots.

Some experts predict this year's death toll easily could surpass the annual average of 36,000 flu deaths. Health officials are unsure why the outbreak has hit so early, why it has caused so many problems in the West, and why it seems to be so lethal in children.

"If it were me, I'd be on the phone to your doctor, calling around to see if you could find some" vaccine, said Dr. Randall Todd, Nevada's epidemiologist.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the flu has hit all 50 states at least sporadically, and the season has not yet peaked nationally. Nearly the entire western half of the country - California being the major exception - is now considered to have widespread flu. Last week, 13 states had widespread outbreaks.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government had arranged for 100,000 doses of adult vaccine to be shipped from Aventis Pasteur immediately and distributed based on each state's population. In addition, 150,000 doses of children's vaccine are expected to be shipped to the states by January, Thompson said.

Car Crashes Through Fla. Governor's Gate

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Two men were arrested after stealing a car and crashing it through the gates of the governor's mansion, authorities said. Investigators said it did not appear they were targeting Gov. Jeb Bush or his family.

No one was injured in the incident Wednesday night.

The governor was not at the mansion at the time, while his wife, Columba, was there but was not in danger, authorities said.

The car had been stolen from a restaurant parking lot nearby.

"They zoomed right through the north gate, went right out the south gate and later were caught for the car being stolen and I guess were somewhat surprised that the `gated community' they went through was the governor's mansion," Bush said Thursday. He said his wife did not even hear the commotion - she was watching a movie.

Steven Franklin Baker, 24, of Millington, Tenn., and Floyd Jesse Boggs, 19, were arrested on car theft charges shortly after the incident. They were held on $2,500 bail each and had yet to be assigned lawyers Thursday afternoon.

Mass. High Court to Discuss Civil Unions

BOSTON (AP) — The Massachusetts Senate voted Thursday to ask the state's highest court if Vermont-style civil unions would satisfy the court's recent decision legalizing gay marriage. The vote was taken without objection.

Senate President Robert Travaglini, a Democrat, said he and other senators want the Supreme Judicial Court to clarify its ruling, which said the state constitution entitles gay couples to all the rights of marriage.

"There are a number of legal experts whose opinions differ on the interpretation," Travaglini said.

The court issued its landmark decision in mid-November and gave the Legislature 180 days to change the laws accordingly.

Some lawmakers and legal observers say that anything short of gay marriage would not satisfy the court. Others argue that the decision left the door open for civil unions that convey the rights of marriage without the title.

Arline Isaacson of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus said she is confident the court will reject the civil unions bill as a half-measure.

U.S. hopes to limit role in Iraq within year

from Iraq, page 1

On May 1, Bush sported a flight suit as he landed on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and declared major combat over. Speaking under a banner that declared "Mission Accomplished," Bush seemed to be declaring victory.

Democrats fumed then that Bush had staged an elaborate photo opportunity for his re-election campaign. But the tide turned quickly. It ended up being the Democrats who would recall the aircraft carrier landing to argue that an overconfident Bush badly miscalculated the difficulty of bringing peace and stability to Iraq.

After Saddam was toppled, looters rampaged for days. Iraqis became impatient with the slow pace of reconstruction and restoration of basic services. The Pentagon replaced its first civilian administrator, retired Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, less than two months after he arrived. His successor, L. Paul Bremer, disbanded the Iraqi army, a move criticized as making it more difficult to fight anti-American guerrillas.

The very justification for the war was quickly called into question. Bush's main argument for attacking Iraq was that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction that could threaten the region and possibly the United States. But even after coalition forces controlled the entire country and interrogated Saddam's former aides and scientists, no weapons have yet been found.

Hopes for large international contributions of money and troops for post-Saddam Iraq also were quickly dashed. U.S. taxpayers continued to shoulder the financial costs of defending and rebuilding Iraq. Congress in November approved an $87 billion package mostly for Iraq on top of $62 billion it provided in April.

The United States continues to have about 130,000 soldiers in Iraq. With additional commitments in Afghanistan, South Korea and elsewhere, concerns have been great about the strain on U.S. forces and how that could affect morale, retention and preparedness to respond to other crises.

Although U.S. forces killed Saddam's sons Odai and Qusai as well as many other top officials, Saddam remains at large. Guerrilla attacks against U.S. and allied forces have only worsened in recent months. More coalition troops died in November than in any other month: 104, including 79 Americans.

"I think the key problem the administration faces here is that the Baathists or the holdouts or whoever it is who is conducting this insurgency judges that it can outlast the Americans," said Lee Feinstein, a former Clinton administration official now at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Pentagon has said it expects to reduce American troops in Iraq to just over 100,000 by May. But the training of Iraq's new army to replace U.S. forces has suffered setbacks. A third of the soldiers in the army's first battalion quickly quit.

A recent survey found most Americans don't think U.S. troops should be withdrawn before Iraq has a stable government. But support for the war has weakened and pressure could grow to get more troops home before the November election.

Hamre said he doesn't expect political pressures would prompt Bush to withdraw U.S. forces before Iraqis can provide their own security.

"I think the president instinctively understands that pulling out at this stage could be calamitous to the security in the region," he said. "If all of a sudden we would walk out, we would create a power vacuum."

Two major architects of World Trade Center say they're working together

NEW YORK (AP) - Despite reports of bitter feuding, two renowned architects said Thursday they're working together to complete a plan by next week for a 1,776-foot tower at the World Trade Center site.

"People know there are differences," Daniel Libeskind said. "It's not easy. But we're working toward reconciling those differences and creating something that everybody will be proud of."

David Childs added: "We've been working together since the middle of July, and we've made tremendous progress. We're not finished."

The two men joined Gov. George Pataki and trade center leaseholder Larry Silverstein at a ceremony marking the hoisting of the first steel beam for the tenant floors at 7 World Trade Center. The 52-story building is rising just north of the trade center site, where terrorists destroyed the twin towers and other buildings on Sept. 11, 2001.

Childs, of Skidmore Owings and Merrill, designed the new 7 World Trade Center and is collaborating with Libeskind, the trade center master planner, on the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower, the site's signature building.

Under a schedule announced by Pataki last spring, the design for the Freedom Tower is to be released next week so that construction can start next summer.

But Libeskind and Childs, who was chosen by Silverstein to design the tower, have had a stormy relationship that Libeskind has likened to an arranged marriage. The New York Post reported Thursday that the two men are not speaking, and reports this week said the current working design for the tower does not resemble Libeskind's original vision of an angular building that echoes the Statue of Liberty.

Asked if the design for the tower would look like his original plan, Libeskind said, "I hope yes."

Peggy Deamer, the associate dean of Yale University's School of Architecture, warned that if there's "a forced marriage" between the architects, "it's going to yield a product that doesn't please anyone."

Rape at Hamilton College
By: Liz Kennedy, Andy Berman, Taylor Austin, and Chris Cagliuso
Women's Studies 101

In a recent survey of 100 Hamilton students:

*** 33% knew someone who was raped on campus**

*** 61% did not know the procedure to take in the event of rape.**

There is a need for increased awareness and education of rape on the Hamilton campus. The Hamilton community needs to be highly committed to prevention, intervention, and awareness of rape. Be informed - know how to avoid committing rape, ways to protect yourself against rape, and what to do if you are raped. For more information please visit: http://wso.williams.edu/orgs/peerh/assault/index.html

In the event of a rape or sexual assault at Hamilton:
- Call the Hamilton Counselor on call at x4340 (x4000 after hours)
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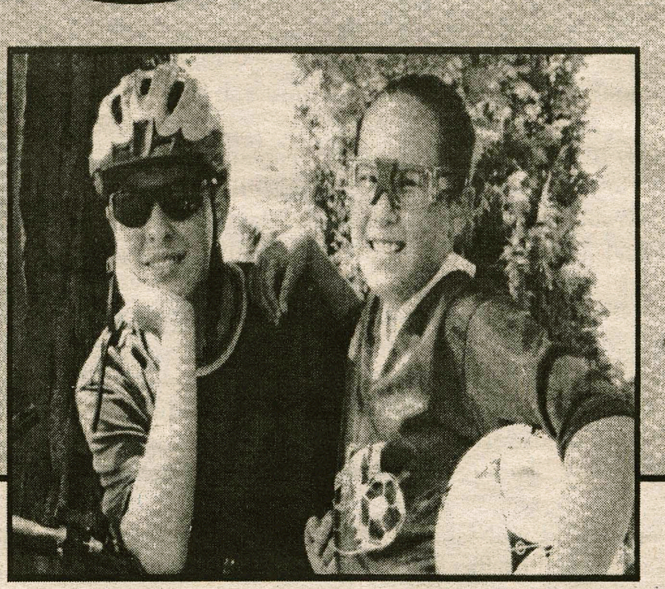
Play it Safe

"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."



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VCA Vision Council of America

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The Spectator
"Older than the New York Times"

Reflecting on the past year, there have been significant events on the Hill that have truly changed the face of Hamilton. The departure of one of Hamilton's finest Presidents, the search to find a new one, the war in Iraq, the inauguration of the College's first female President, third party caters changing the atmosphere of Bundy parties, Bill Cosby's visit, the reconstitution of the coalition on alcohol, the arrest of freshmen for the possession of cocaine, not to mention the Spectator's first sex column. Although we haven't always been popular throughout our covering of these events, being at the center of controversy shows that we're doing something right.

Thanks to the staff for…

-Daniel Bleeker- Being the best assistant a Managing Editor, or a Copy Editor for that matter, could ask for.
-Bill Chenevert- Always articulating ideas well at Editor's meetings. We know you will do well braving the peak of Hamilton Media next year.
-Allison Davis- Taking the controversy of the Sex Column in stride and making I&I the most-read section of the paper.
-Andrew DeCastro- Showing up consistently and insightfully contributing to Editor's meetings. We look forward to seeing the Sports carry on from one set of able hands to another.
-Sarah Gould- Going solo in a new section, and making us proud of your work.
-Brett Greenspan- Spicing up A&E with our favorite corner, Bush corner.
-Sarah Karalunas- Always being there to advise. Your help was and continues to be invaluable.
-Priyanka Khanna- Holding out despite being one of the only "old-school" editors left on the staff.
-Jennifer Kostka- Burning through copy editing gracefully while still having the energy to boogie down to Bill's hip-hop.
-Allison Krutul- Coming in consistently and weaving your red-pen magic on into the night.
-Aram Kudurshian- Doing a brilliant job breaking through the barrier of the one-page Science & Technology section.
-Nick Lund- Running with the position we threw on your shoulders. You have done a brilliant job at being the eyes for the campus.
-Ian Mandel- Taking on News, late nights and computer malfunctions with a smile, albeit with a few mumbled swears too. The section looks great.
-Mike Proia- We will miss the weekly baseball arguments in the office, your insight into Nomar's season, and your all-around good cheer. You have been invaluable to the good image of Sports at Hamilton.
-Brian Sweeney- Always having your section in earliest, complete with the greatest Lord of the Rings captions we've ever seen.
-Ben Turner- Gracefully completing exactly %50 of your job the entire year.
-Rebecca Wright- Sniffing out the hot stories surrounding Howard Dean.
-Kat McGrory- Writing consistently for the Spec, despite being thousands of miles away. Its all yours, and we know you will do a wonderful job.

A special thanks goes out to all our writers, reporters, photographers and contributors for their tireless commitment to this publication. To everyone who as contributed in any way to the Spectator, from giving quotes to sending in a letter to the editor, your help has made this newspaper possible.

As for us? We think we'll try to finish up this Thursday night earlier than normal. We're out!

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A challenge to the faculty

A response to the faculty meeting and panel on alcohol in the Chapel

by Celine Geiger '04
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

This past Tuesday represented the best and worst of what Hamilton College has to offer its students. On one end were irate faculty, claiming that Greek society members - people who are friends and just happen to be in the same Greek society - living together offer no academic or intellectual benefit and insult the intelligence of the Hamilton community and its integrity.

As one faculty member astutely stated, "fraternities kill people," and it's only a matter of time before a fraternity kills a Hamilton community member; this danger is obviously exacerbated by fraternity and sorority members living together. No particular fraternity at Hamilton College was specifically mentioned, so one must assume this speaker's sweeping statement meant that death is a viable option for all the Hamilton College students associated with a fraternity through brotherhood or pledging.

Roughly an hour later in the Chapel (not too far away from the Events Barn), the Inter-Society Council and the Student Assembly held a Town Hall Forum on Alcohol and Social Change at Hamilton College. Many members of the administration and Residential Life were present, vocalizing opinions and ideas for change that were well-respected amongst participants in the panel and the audience.

Strangely absent, however, were members of the Hamilton College faculty as well as the President and Vice President of the College, save for one faculty member on the panel and one faculty member who sat in the audience. This was hugely troubling to me both as a student and a Greek society member. Here were a group of students actively involved in promoting change on campus, negating all of the typical stereotypes of students (we break things, we violate people, we damage property, we are disrespectful and irresponsible - you fill in the rest), and the faculty who were so quick to criticize us earlier that day were absolutely nowhere to be found.

How dare faculty members charge students with the cruel stereotypes they so freely tossed out without even bothering to work with us to promote change? It's very easy to read a few articles in *The Spectator*, hear a few stories, make some assumptions regarding Greek life and student life, and think that you know *everything* there is to know about what it means to be an undergraduate at this insitution. It's difficult to take time out of a busy schedule (as all of the students who planned and attended the Forum did, seeing as it is the last week of classes and close to final exams) to sit down and talk to students regarding student attitudes and behavior to attend an ISC meeting, a Student Assembly meeting, or a Town Hall forum.

It's obvious that many faculty have decided to take the easy way out. This is not to say that all faculty members are at fault. The day after the meeting, a professor of mine who noticed me at the meeting asked to speak with me and hear my thoughts. We spent the next hour and a half engaged in a positive dialogue during which I was able to clarify some stereotypes he had regarding students, and he clarified some of my stereotypes regarding faculty. I left his office hour glad that he had taken his time to talk to me and to understand my position on the situation. Most importantly, I was glad that he respected my opinion. I only wish other faculty members present at the meeting would take such strides to promote productive conversation. However, I am not confidant that the outspoken ones will do so.

To go about suggesting drastic measures that will affect all students' residential options (such as reconfiguring the Housing Lottery to decrease the amount of "pulls" a student, any student, can pull) without even bothering to talk to students and work with them is absolutely uncalled for. If any faculty members even bothered to stick around for the Town Hall Meeting on alcohol, they would have seen a variety of students, Greeks and non-Greeks alike, as well as multiple representatives from Residential Life, discussing viable options for change that don't involve tampering with the already watered-down pull system in place. The topic of solving the drinking problem on campus, which faculty members seem to assume stems from Greek society members living together was also raised. Freshmen dorms, increased campus safety, a student union building, and more non-alcoholic programming were some of the suggestions students presented to counterattack binge drinking in dorms and at dorm parties.

The events of Tuesday were irritating and upsetting to me, not only as an active member of Greek life, but also as an active member of the general student body. As a senior, I can only hope that my fellow undergraduates, who will remain on the Hill after I'm gone, will come to realize the seriousness and urgency of this matter. The student body cannot let these stereotypes continue to prevail. We must go out of our way to prove to the faculty that we can be responsible. We must show that we don't just break things on weekends, that we don't all party downtown and disrupt the Clinton community, and that we don't all drink ourselves to oblivion.

We must be mature adults who facilitate change and positivity. We cannot afford to be silent on this matter any longer; it has already spun out of control and needs to be curbed. Likewise, the student body cannot simply rely on chosen student leaders to represent the whole. Individually, each and every one of us must challenge the faculty, our friends, and ourselves to show the Hamilton community that we are responsible adults who know and understand the difference between working hard and playing hard. We must show that we value the opportunities and the education this college offers us every day.

In addition, Greek society members must continue to promote the good that they do - the good that often gets overlooked. I can't imagine that the faculty members who were the most outspoken against students on Tuesday will actually take the time to read these words. Most likely, they will just write me off as another Hamilton Greek driveling about how unfairly everyone treats me or not even bother to read a student opinion in the student newspaper.

I invite any faculty member reading this who has questions regarding student life or Greek life to get to know me. I am a senior English Literature major, Education Studies minor from a middle-class neighborhood just north of New York City. I am a founder of the Kappa Sigma Alpha Sorority of Hamilton College, a writer for *The Spectator*, an editor for *Red Weather*, a future teacher's assistant for Study of the Novel, a Bristol desk worker, a member of the Student Assembly, the Inter-Society Council, and the Senior Gift Committee, a HAVOC volunteer, and a WHCL-FM DJ. I live in Carnegie 305, my phone number is 859-2143, and my email is cgeiger@hamilton.edu. Give me a call or send me an email. Just don't make judgments about me, my friends, or what the student body is capable of. Please don't judge what Greek society members stand for or do without knowing us first. That insults our intelligence.

Thumbs Up

– The new Chief. Kat will run this Spec ship with an iron fist. And a whip.

– Kwaanza. Christmas and Chanukah can suck it.

– Rhymelab. It was off the hook.

– Rich Girls and The Simple Life being on the same night. More entertaining than the ATX semi-formal last weekend.

– Course evaluations. The perfect opportunity to reem your crappy professors a new one.

– No Daily Bull. Now we don't have to be consistently pissed off when we pick it up.

– Fighting in the library. Perfect study break.

– We're halfway to Class and Charter day.

Thumbs Down

– Loser professors who didn't get bids when they were in college.

– Greek society members who enjoyed hearing themselves talk in the Chapel on Tuesday.

– Joan "Hide" Stewart's fur coat.

– No Sex Column = no one reads The Spec this week.

– Douchebags who answer their cell-phones in the middle of the library and continue to hold lengthy conversations while everyone in the room stares at them.

– Professors who assign final presentaions, a paper, a final paper, a final exam, and a take-home exam all due in their mailbox at 4pm on Friday.

– Dry Week.

Bill Chenevert '05, Matt Colman '06, and Colin Mahoney '05,

Who Cares?

– The Viddyo dropbox and the 24-hour fax machine in Beinecke.

– HPEP's efforts to relieve stress during Finals' week.

– P. Diddy and Jay-Z buying basketball teams.

– I'll tell you right now I don't care about your Winter Break. You don't really care about mine. Let's skip this painful exchange.

– Coffee and cookies in the basement of the library in exchange for input on library improvements. How 'bout fewer douchebags who answer phones and fight?

– 100 Years of Flight. The Dorchestra's display of raw talent.

– Your work. I only care about mine.

Faculty's reasons for eliminating Greek life not founded in facts

by Andrew DeCastro '05
SPORTS EDITOR

I had the opportunity to attend the faculty meeting on Tuesday afternoon. The meeting first started with discussion of the school's budget, and then proceeded to the honor court discussions. And then, presumably earlier than most people attending the faculty meeting anticipated, the issue of private societies came into fruition.

Professor Isserman demanded that the current agenda be postponed in order to discuss his disdain for private societies on campus. I believe I speak for the sentiment of all private societies when I say that Professor Isserman's comments contained little justification, and no factual evidence. Professor Isserman's remarks that contained some factual evidence addressed the 1995 remarks after fraternity houses were eliminated on campus. It seems to me that Isserman's negative emotions toward private societies clouded his logical judgment because the basis of his entire argument was from a memo that was constructed over eight years ago.

Professor Nathaniel Strout shared Isserman's frustrations with private societies on campus. Again, Strout used little empirical evidence to support his bold comment. At one point, Strout labeled private societies as "anti-intellectual and anti-academic," a message I took very personally. To stereotype every society in this manner seems rather sophomoric and unwarranted. Doesn't Hamilton teach us to avoid stereotyping by gaining an adequate amount of information? Speaking for myself, I take pride in academics. After just making dean's list a semester ago, I am on track to make dean's list again. And I am confident, if you went around to various societies, you would find an astonishing amount of people in a society that make dean's list.

I am not out to attack anyone's character, even though many of us at the meeting felt like our character was being attacked. I am more concerned with these two professors' stances. Neither professor had the pleasure of being a member of a private society. The bonds that young men and young women form through private societies are eternal friendships based on a mutual understanding or respect, trust, and loyalty. Private societies, when used properly, can be used as a tools to help those less fortunate through various philanthropic events. I find it hard for two men to adamantly oppose something of which they have never been a part.

One professor at the faculty meeting who deserves praise from all members of a private society is Professor Philip Klinkner. Klinkner was not shy in admitting that he has an "agnostic" attitude towards private societies, meaning he doesn't support or refute private societies on campus. Even though Klinker admitted that members of sorities tend to be the happiest on campus at Hamilton, he remained neutral towards the issue.

Strout misinterpreted Klinkner's response and attacked Klinkner's audacity to have a neutral opinion that refutes an extreme view that Strout and Isserman have.

Klinker's main concern is addressing a problem prevalent in the Hamilton Community: alcohol abuse. His intent for the Alcohol Coalition is clear. I only hope Professor Strout is more concerned with addressing the alcohol abuse problem rather than focusing on eliminating private societies.

Another issue I feel warrants a discussion is the misinterpretation of Student Activities, Residential Life, and the Dean of Students. After attending the faculty meeting, I have gained the utmost respect for each department. Granted, I had ill feelings towards Residential Life and the Dean of Students Office. I now realize that these two departments, whether we want to admit it or not, are on the side of the students. I urge students on campus, affiliated or not, to praise these organizations and their efforts to protect of rights. Our area coordinators and the resident advisors need to be commended for the difficult task of making our living environment as comfortable as possible while facing verbal attacks from disgruntled members of the faculty.

I also realize that the views of a few do not represent that entire faculty population. I assume that those who did not speak adamantly against private societies take the "agnostic" approach that Professor Klinkner has. I respect all members of our faculty at Hamilton, even those adamantly opposed to private societies. I realize that I have become the person I am because I am blessed with intelligent, respectable, and compassionate teachers. I am blessed to have role models in the faculty. My main concern is the methods, certain words, and lack of evidence some professors used when making these claims. And because we are not allowed to speak at the faculty meeting (which I understand and respect), I feel it is my duty on behalf of all private society members to respond to unwarranted and harsh criticisms that we endured only a few days ago.

Getting from A to B on campus with crutches is nearly impossible

by Keiko Seno '07
INSIGHTS & IDEAS CONTRIBUTOR

After spraining my ankle and having to walk around for a while on crutches, I've realized the extent to which this campus is incredibly handicap-inaccessible! I'll give you this - Hamilton isn't as bad as my high school, where they put a clear plastic covers over the Braille room-numbers. But still.

Take Root Hall: The staircase was so narrow that I ended up holding up everyone behind me and making them late for class as I peg-legged it slowly up to the third floor. Maybe there is a hidden elevator somewhere, but I doubt it, since the steps in front automatically make it impossible for any wheelchair-bound person to enter the building, which then eliminates the need for an elevator.

I don't mean this to just be a self-indulgent vent session. I realize that it's probably unreasonable for me to rant about how there are no ramps in Root or no elevator for McEwen or List, because these are big budget issues that will require extensive re-modeling and re-wiring, the type of project the college probably doesn't want to get involved in at least until the new Science Building and the Psi U are completed.

But despite these big projects, there are many small things that can be changed that would make a world of difference to people who are handicapped, or just people who are injured in general. For example, there are many places on campus (eg: McEwen Breezeway) that have three or four gratuitous little steps that make it impossible for a wheelchair to pass through. How hard can it be to reduce the incline and pave over it with asphalt?

The issue isn't even about wheelchairs or crutches. Broken down to the simplest essence, the issue here is just a simple lack of common sense and attention to details, which even Danny McLain pointed out was a main flaw in his lecture on the utter inaccessibility of this campus (see The Spectator, 10/31/03)

There are little things that can be done to make life easier for everyone, for example, with the walkways. I mean, it really hurt my feelings when I hobbled the super-fun twenty minutes from Dunham to the Library and there were large mounds of snow and ice landscaping the wheelchair ramp, although a portion of the stairs were immaculately snow-free. As embarrassing and lame as it is to admit, even stairs like the baby steps in front of the Library are very scary when it's hailing and you can't walk right. I felt as if that ramp was there only as a formality, and that I shouldn't expect to be able to use it, especially because the shovel marks in the snow indicated that someone had made a careless attempt to clear it fairly recently.

The paths are ridiculously slippery. I've seen a lot of perfectly healthy kids slip and have talked to some who have actually hurt themselves falling on the bumpy icy walkways. Somehow, that cute little machine that brushes the path as it clears just isn't cutting it. I remember one morning they (campus safety I guess) just parked the machine on the walkway right in front of Beinecke for a couple hours to cover a spot that was so slippery that they didn't want anyone walking on it. Problem-solving 101.

There could be a lot of improvement on making the walkways safer without spending an inordinate amount of money to do so. All it really takes is some dirt and salt. As of right now, I don't even know if they put down anything or not, because when I look down at where I'm walking, I see scattered bits of gravel so few in number that I can't even tell if somebody put that down on purpose, or if that's just

see *Crutches*, page 8

Liberal arts colleges should have liberal regisration

by R. Andre Chapman '07
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

My first article of this semester was about waiting in a long line for the registrar's office. I have, and I believe others have, encountered a problem of similar magnitude. This time around, we (the class of 2007) were able to register online using Web Advisor.

The earliest we could register was November 24-25. This time I had a tougher time dealing with the fact that just about every course I wanted to take was unavailable to me. What a state of frenzy I was in when I had to go back over the course booklet to reassure myself that I liked courses that I really did not like. So, here I am at my computer at 7:40 A.M.. That was the time allotted for my last-name-initial category. I had all of the courses that I wanted to register for in front of me and even more. I had the synonym number, course number, and course section prepared.

So I am prepared to use the express registration option on Web Advisor. When I get there, I sign in and plug in all the numbers. Almost all the courses I applied for I could not enroll in because they were already filled. The good news is that I got into the P. E. course that I wanted. That is not what is important here. I am more interested in the courses that are going to affect my attitude about possible career aspirations.

After realizing that I have to make critical choices that may change my life drastically, I frantically go through my mind. I do this with hope that I can convince myself that I am interested in courses that I would never rationally consider enrolling in. Some might say, "this is what should happen, forcing students to make these kinds of decisions is a good thing. I hope that they will find something that they never thought they would like and completely take it on as their major."

I refute this by saying you are obstructing what could have already been a conscientiously motivated person. They may already know of the other opportunities to tap, but they are completely certain that they want to do something. They set their eyes on this something long before they even came to college. They wake up every morning knowing exactly what they want to accomplish. This may seem impossible, but it is not.

I avow that I am one of these people that wakes up every morning knowing exactly what I am here for and what I want to accomplish. No matter what kind of restraints this registration process puts on me, I am sure I will be able to accomplish my goal. It is because of the registration process that I will not be able to attain my goal with ease but with strife. This is what I am arguing should stop, so those students who want to choose their destinies can choose their destinies with out having the registration barrier to overcome.

I am well aware that pressures ease as the student advances in class year. The sophomores get to choose before the freshmen, the juniors get to choose before the sophomores, and the seniors get to choose before the juniors. While this is all understandable, there is still the immense pressure placed on the freshmen. My final and more important statement is that liberal arts colleges should have liberal registration.

Rhymlelab = bananas

by **Bill Chenevert '05**
INSIGHTS & IDEAS EDITOR

Hamilton's cultural scene can seem bleak at times. I definitely feel that sometimes there really is "nothing to do" around here. Clinton does not provide any kind of late-night entertainment for under 21-year-olds, unless you go catch a movie. Although many of the Performing Arts series' performers are noteworthy, critically acclaimed, and impressive, they aren't so impressive to 18-year-olds. Wednesday night, however, proved to me that Hamilton students are incredibly talented and they just need the appropriate outlet and venue to display their skills (or skillz if you will). Yeah, I'm talking about Rhymelab, because it was incredible.

Opus was packed, the list of performers was certainly longer than it was at the last Rhyme session, and the audience was more receptive and lively than any audience I've seen at any other student-produced performances. Rhymelab's performers truly have their fingers on the pulse of the Hamilton community's nonsense. Bead's biting poems started out Rhymelab right, fearlessly dissing on several different Hamilton phenomena. I rocked a quasi-love rap with AHo singing a beautiful chorus for me and Ben ripped his usual beatbox abilities. Other Rhymelab veterans put on some impressive performances: Vlad Rodriquez, Dale Ledbetter, and one other rapper whose name I can't remember, rocked a remix to a favorite of theirs, "Problems," as Nathaly Francois provided an oh-so-sweet chorus. Rachel Manwill also awed us with her usual poeticizings. Ann Horwitz cracked up the crowd with her (un)usual critiques of George Dubya. She totally ripped the mic, it was bananas.

Newcomers were the story of the most recent Rhymelab. These brave souls performed like champs in front of a packed house. Shannon Mims, Diana Mastrocola, Adrienne Isaac, and Danielle Roper floored me with their unbelievable personal poetry and performance skills. The story of the newcomers, however, might be Erin Turcot and Bec Sadek. Their rap was a response to a previous rap from Mike Romano, who slammed on just about every Greek society on campus. Erin and Bec rapped without a beat and cracked up the audience at least a dozen times with their lyrics being a big f*$% you to a lot of different Hamilton constituencies.

When Great American used to be here, we had a virtually untouchable live music scene. Nevertheless, Topsy Washington, The Diddlers, and Kings of Clinton consistently rock parties in the Hub or Bundy. Wednesday night proved to me that Hamilton is a place full of really talented young men and women. Sometimes, when I'm doubting my belonging here at Hamilton, student talent can reaffirm to me that Hamilton is a special place to be.

Campus not cruthces friendly

from Crutches, page 7

from people's shoes not being clean. I know that on the really snowy days it would be wasteful to throw down dirt and stuff that would just be completely covered again in an hour. But traction is a really helpful thing, especially if you're on crutches! Even something as simple as leaving a bucket of salt by the door of buildings with steps in front of the doors. And to get back to the money issue, in case anyone's been living in a complete hole and hasn't heard: Hamilton is the fifth most expensive college in the nation-I'm sure we can afford a little sand for safety's sake.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Our beloved Marge approached me the other day as I entered the Commons dining facility, visibly upset as she shook last week's Spectator in her hand. With a furrowed brow she stated, "Someone should write a letter. Did you see this? Did you see this article? It says us girls aren't doin' a good job." I promised her I would write that letter before even reading the newspaper, realizing the enormity of the situation. Marge is not one to be upset without due cause.

R. Andre Chapman's article entitled "Fine Dining?" promulgated arrogance typical of a (hopefully) small portion of Hamilton's student body, and a lack of responsibility which is not uncommon amongst us. The author stated, "It [Commons] sometimes gets messy, and that is something that can easily be solved. Just put more time and effort into making sure that the place is clean, all the time." Thank you, Shakespeare, how eloquent.

Admittedly, I made the assumption that the aforementioned statement is addressed to the dining hall staff, and not to those students who pollute the facility like toddlers lacking proper potty training. If the author intended to chastise the inconsiderate students for their slovenly behavior, then I wholeheartedly apologize for this misunderstanding and subsequent anger on my part. If it was the employees being criticized for failing in their responsibilities, however, then I must question the author's powers of observation and situational analysis.

I, too, have entered Commons to find the tables "filthy" and I, too, have had to "take it upon myself to clean...before I begin eating." But, dear Chapman, it is not the employees who are fully responsible for sweeping up after us. Yes, there are custodial duties which should be attended to in a timely manner by the staff, but students should not be excused from acting like big boys and girls because someone else is paid to clean up the disaster areas left behind, in the wake of departing kiddies.

Before you point fingers at the dining halls staffs' apparent failures to adequately perform their jobs, consider, R. Andre Chapman, that you are surrounded by a number of irresponsible, self-centered young'uns who make the employees' jobs that much more difficult. I have watched students sit at recently cleaned tables, only to leave them covered in debris of every kind: banana peels, piles of used napkins, dirty dishes, spilled liquids, chunks of that mysterious tuna-noodle-orange peel-string bean casserole. The College should not have to hire additional employees to make the "atmosphere" of Commons so much more appealing, Chappie.

Do a little legwork, folks. Save Marge, Rita, Barb, and all the other good folks a bit of time and effort. They work hard. Acknowledge that with respect and do your part. Maybe go so far as to clean up someone else's mess occasionally. Yes, you are a Hamilton College student and not a Commons employee, but will your tray be so much heavier with an extra cup and plate? Perhaps a lone fork?

As a senior, this behavior and outlook from some students leaves me frightened of a future which includes qualities of such disrespect and self-involvement in so many of my peers.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Cunningham, '04

To the Spectator,

I have had enough of Andre Chapman's complaint articles. While Mr. Chapman's intentions may be sincere, finger wagging does not make for very interesting reading and *The Spectator* has suffered because of it.

Sincerely,
Alex R. Taylor '07

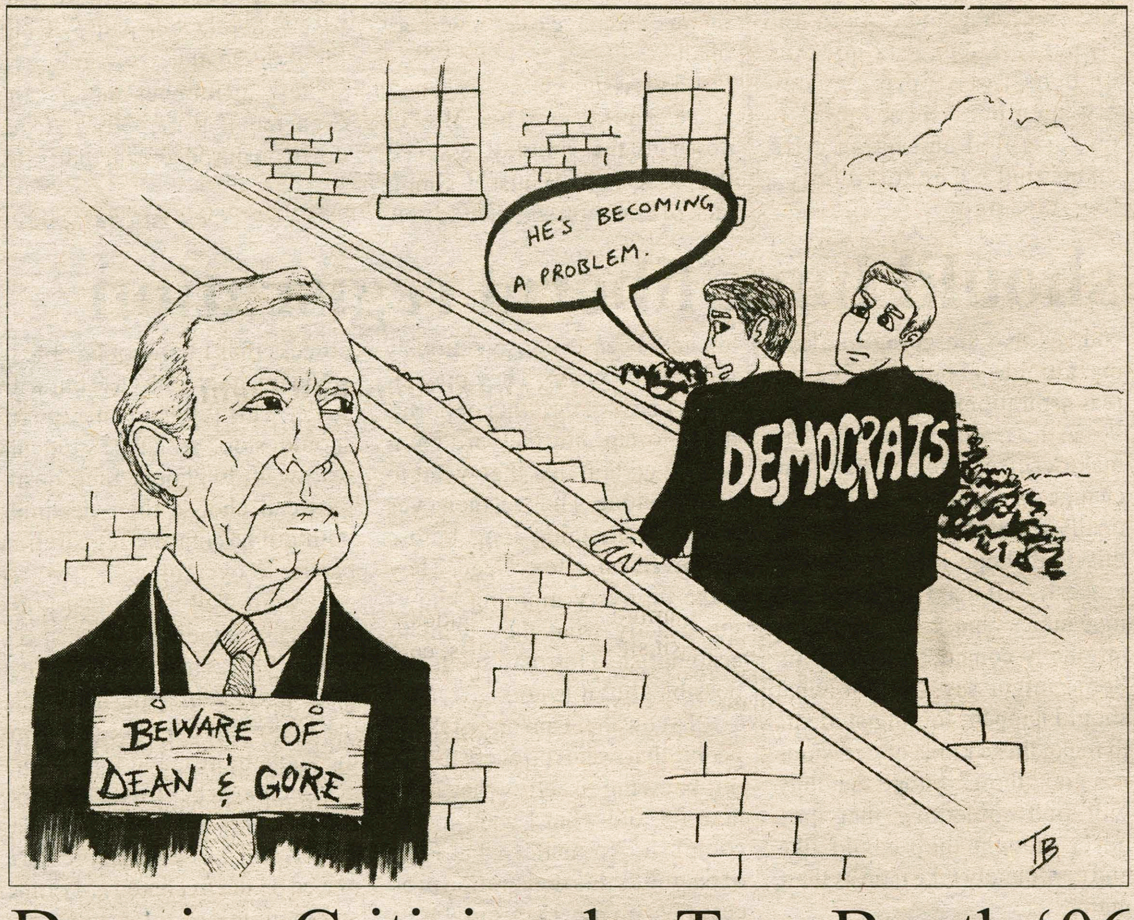
Dear Editor,

The Insights and Ideas section of The Spectator provides a forum for students to voice their opinions; however, I feel that it is being abused by one of your writers, R. Andre Chapman '07. I consistently read Mr. Chapman's articles in disbelief, hardly able to convince myself that he is serious. His articles are so poorly written and so poorly thought out that they have a tone similar to that of parodies.

All Chapman ever does is whine about insignificant issues, over-stating their importance. For instance, in the December 5, 2003 issue, Chapman's article "Close the Door!" complains that propping dormitory doors is "selfish, thoughtless of others, and should be stopped." Is this guy serious? He blows the "issue" of door propping way out of proportion.

Nobody likes to hear others whine, especially not in their College newspaper. My suggestion is for Mr. Chapman go home over winter break and think over what he's been writing. Perhaps when he returns to the Hill in January he will have thought up some ideas worth writing about.

Sincerely,
Ian Mandel '06



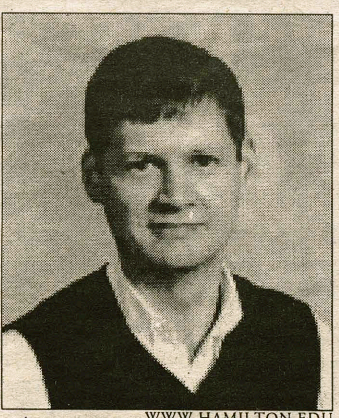
Drawing Criticism by Tom Booth '06

THE SPECTATOR'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMNUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECT ION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF *THE SPECTATOR*, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, T*HE SPECTATOR* HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:

1. Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before publication. Submissions can be sent by email to spec@hamilton.edu or to the individual I&I editors (adavis@hamilton.edu or wcheneve@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

Two English Professors receive honors for their work

Associate Professor of English Edward Wheatley has been awarded a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for 2004-2005. Wheatley's project is a book he is writing titled "Stumbling Blocks Before the Blind: The Medieval Construction of a Disability." This cultural studies project will present the first comprehensive exploration of a disability in the Middle Ages, drawing upon literature, history, arts history and religious discourse.



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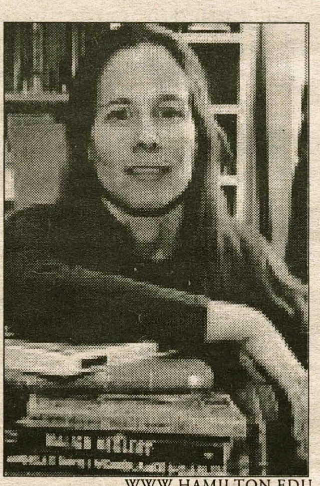
Associate Professor of English Edward Wheatley

Wheatley says the book will be the first devoted entirely to blindness in both a single period before the 20th century and more than one country. It will be the first to relate current theories of disability to the social and institutional constructions of a disability in the 13th through 15th centuries, especially in France and England. Wheatley's goal is to show that many of the attitudes about blindness that remained dominant in western culture had their roots in the Middle Ages, but that also a few innovations-cultural, literary, and, to an extent, medical-resulted in a fuller understanding and acceptance of blindness than had existed earlier.

Abridged versions of two of the six chapters of the book have been accepted for publication this year in Exemplaria and Disability Studies Quarterly. Wheatley will use the NEH Fellowship to complete the book.

According to the NEH Web site, Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges or universities, or of primary or secondary schools, or independent scholars or writers. Fellowships provide support for projects that can be completed during the tenure of the award, as well as for work that is part of a long-term endeavor. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools.

An article published by Associate Professor of English Catherine Gunther Kodat in American Quarterly received a favorable notice in the November 7 edition of Times Literary Supplement, a prestigious British literary journal. Kodat wrote an essay "Conversing With Ourselves," for the March 3 edition of American Quarterly, the official publication of the American Studies Association. The Times Literary Supplement (TLS), in a review of American Quarterly wrote, "Catherine Gunther Kodat's essay on the formation of the canon of jazz 'greats' (volume 55, number one, March 2003) engages both with Adorno on music and Ken Burns's jazz programme, and is as informative about John Coltrane's version of 'My Favourite Things' as it is suggestive for wider discussion of canon formation."



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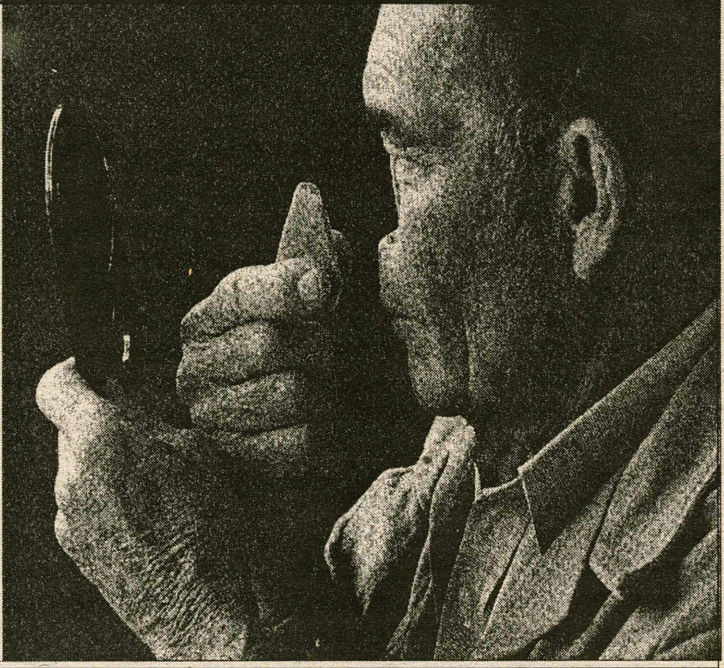
Associate Professor of English Catherine Kodat

According to the TLS Web site, "Since 1902, the TLS has scrutinized, dissected, applauded, and occasionally disparaged, the work of the twentieth century's leading writers and thinkers. The TLS is the only literary weekly - in fact the only journal - to offer comprehensive coverage not just of the latest and most important publications, in every subject, in several languages - but also current theatre, opera and film. The TLS's authority is acknowledged worldwide and its approach is worldwide, too. "

Press releases courtesy of Hamilton College Communications Office

SKIN CANCER CAN KILL YOU. AND NOW FOR THE REALLY BAD NEWS.

Skin cancer can kill you. But it's much more likely to disfigure you. Every year, thousands of Americans lose chunks of their skin to the disease. Noses. Ears. Eyebrows. So examine your skin regularly for warning signs. If you find anything bleeding, crusting or not healing, see your dermatologist. For more information on how to identify skin cancer, call 1-888-462-DERM, or visit www.aad.org.



AAD

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

THIS WEEK IN HAMILTON HISTORY

3 YEARS AGO

December 8, 2000

The following is an excerpt from an editorial written by Justin Tyler '00

Comments on the State of the Revolution

The semester has run out on us, students of Hamilton, and what an interesting semester it has been. Right from the start a feeling of change was in the air. The new social programming plan came to us from on high and it appeared as though our entire social scene was being threatened. The students were up in arms, angered at the administration, the faculty and the lack of communication among the groups. A strong "us vs. them" mentality developed: "they" were trying to ruin our parties, "they" didn't care what the students had to say.

This anger and frustration apparently came to a head with the infamous "Storm of the Quad" party which gathered a group of students together under the notion of protest, 60s style. Many argue that the motto of the party, "Rock out with your cock out," perfectly described the scene: a group of student concerned more with flashy posturing than any sort of real change. The proponents of the Quad incident claim that it was the beginnings of a revolution. What I want to know is where is the revolution?

Following the party... the Hamilton community concluded that there did need to be more interaction between faculty, students and administration. In response, a town hall meeting occurred, committees were created, and a community discussion forum was set up. But after that there was nothing. The community discussion forum remains mostly empty and little has changed.

Is anyone still out there rocking with their cock out? Is anyone still fired up about the social options? I feel like everyone just adapted to the changes and went along quietly - a stark change from the protest atmosphere of weeks before. Or maybe the social options weren't that harsh to begin with and the student body over-reacted. I guess it doesn't matter, the end result was the same.

12 YEARS AGO

December 13, 1991

Campus judged not accessible enough for handicapped

The Resource Center for Independent Living of Utica recently conducted a handicap accessibility study of the Hamilton College campus. Gerard A. Plante, a representative from the Center, sent a letter to President Payne summarizing the results of the study.

In his letter Plante commented, "My impression of the campus is that I went away feeling that somebody with a mobility impairment could attend most of Hamilton's events and activities, but I could not live on campus and be a student."

Plante said that the Administration of the College should be "commended for the improvements which are necessary in regards to complying with Federal and State laws; however, improvements are not complete and much of the campus is woefully inadequate."

31 YEARS AGO

December 8, 1972

Dunham Snowball Fight Causes Extensive Damage

What apparently began as an all Freshman snowball fight got out of hand last Friday night, December 1st, and vandals caused some 650 dollars in damage to furnishings and fixtures in Dunham Dormitory.

Hamilton Dean of Students R. Gordon Bingham reported that Exit signs, ceiling tiles, ceiling light fixtures, and windows were broken, in addition to damage to buildings near Dunham. At the Registrar's office, two pillars were broken; in Commons, light fixtures were damaged, and window was broken in Bristol. A campus street light was also broken, and students were seen throwing pieces of broken ceiling tile through Dunham windows.

Through the Freshman advisors, Dean Bingham threatened the entire class with a fine of ten dollars apiece if the culprits did not come to him before Friday, December 8. He said that about twelve people were involved; most of these have either been reported or turned themselves in.

Nearby star may have solar system similar to ours

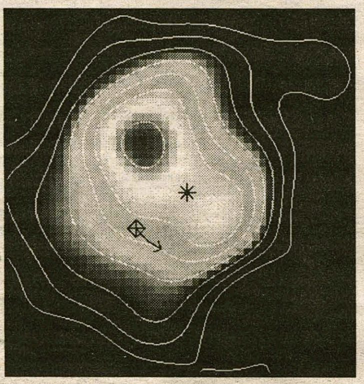
by Aram Kudurshian '06
SCIENCE EDITOR

Astronomers from the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh have discovered that Vega, the brightest star in the sky and a member of the constellation Lyra, the Harp, could possibly have Earth-like planets orbiting it. Three times as large as the Sun and just 25 light-years away (approx. 147 trillion miles), Vega has a disc of dust circling the planet that could push debris around the star away, allowing smaller worlds such as Earth to exist.

A recent study published in *The Astrophysical Journal* explains that these observations were taken using one of the world's most sensitive cameras, nicknamed Scuba (Submillimeter Common-User Bolometer Array), found on the James Clerk Maxwell radio telescope in Hawaii.

Mark Wyatt, one of the scientists who played a key role in the discovery, designed a computer model that attempted to explain the images. From these programs, it was suggested that the disc found could be best compared to a planet similar in structure to Neptune.

At approximately the same distance from Vega as Neptune is from Earth as well as similar in mass, the Neptune-like planet was found to contain room for small-rocky planets similar in composition to Earth. *BBC News* reports that



NEWS.BBC.CO.UK

Vega is shown by the star while its orbiting planet is marked with a box.

if this were the case, Vega could have a planetary system much like our own.

In a statement issued by the observatory, Wyatt explained that "the irregular shape of the disc was the clue that it likely contained planets. Although we [the scientists involved] can't directly observe the planets, they have created clumps in the disc of dust around the star."

These clumps are thought to have evolved in a similar way as our own Solar System, with gaseous planets forming closer to the sun, and then being pulled towards their current orbits by gravitational interactions. During such interactions, large planets attract debris that would otherwise strike smaller, younger planets, allowing life to develop more easily.

Wayne Holland, the scientist who made the original observations, explains: "The model predicts that the clumps in the disk will rotate around the star once every three hundred years. If we take more observations after a gap of a few years we should see the movement of the clumps. Also the model predicts the finer detail of the disk's clumpiness which can be confirmed using the next generation of telescopes and cameras."

Ironically, the dusty discs are extremely difficult to discern in the images captured by Scuba because of Vega's relatively warm temperature, just under -292 F. However, from the images taken, it is possible to see Vega.

Is the Flu the next epidemic?

by Alexandre Stamoulis '06
SCIENCE WRITER

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a virus we're all familiar with, especially around this time of the year. However, this year it might pay off to a bit more cautious as experts worldwide state that the US and other nations are unprepared to handle a new, lethal strain of the virus. Concerns have been raised about the early appearance of a new strain that was not included in the 2003 vaccine. Since the virus mutates each year and no cure-all vaccine exists, new vaccines are specially created every year.

Numerous viral-specialists noted that several severe flu epidemics threatened to occur during 2003, and that in order to combat a wide-spread epidemic, large amounts of anti-viral drugs and vaccines would need to be at hand. Currently the US, as well as many other countries worldwide, are woefully understocked in such vaccines and have no plans to produce more.

Furthermore, this year's flu virus appears to be a new strain that has only appeared minutely in 2003, though it has already caused several problems in Australia amongst other countries. The Fujian Strain, as it is commonly known, is apparently the main strain circulating in the USA, Canada and the UK.

While last year's vaccine is somewhat effective against this particular strain because of similarities with another strain known as the Panama Strain, it is not completely fulproof. The problem is that it takes time to create and produce a new vaccine and to produce enough stockpiles to insure that a pandemic can be contained or stopped. Several Researchers have noted that the SARS epidemic last year has highlighted the need to be prepared for a viral epidemic.

In the USA, concern has been raised about the fact that this year's strain struck much earlier than in previous years. The Center for Disease Control, based in Atlanta, is urging at-risk groups to get vaccinated. Those who have the greatest risk of getting infected are the 50 and over age group and young children, or anyone with breathing disorders such as Asthma.

According to experts, children are more at risk this year due to the fact that they will have had less exposure over their lifetime to the different strains and thus are immunologically weaker.

Some paranoid experts are worried that another flu epidemic, much like the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918 that killed 50 million people worldwide, is just around the corner. We can only hope that world governments will take notice of this risk and make preparations for such an eventuality.

In conclusion, bundle up warmly and go get your flu vaccination if you haven't already done so, then just hope for the best. As I write this article, I'm ironically suffering from the flu myself. So be prepared and try to avoid catching the flu. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to go blow my nose and take my medicine.

NASA to Embed Shuttle Wings With Sensors

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP)

Taking a lesson from the Columbia disaster, NASA plans to embed high-tech sensors in the wings of the three remaining space shuttles to detect any blows from debris, an oversight panel said Thursday.

The sensors will determine whether the leading edges of the wings were hit, but not the degree of damage, said Joseph Cuzzupoli, a Kistler Aerospace Corp. vice president who is part of the return-to-flight task force. The extent of damage would still have to be determined by an inspection by astronauts in orbit, using an extension boom equipped with cameras and lasers.

"It's just a tool that helps us to know and gives us a feeling that something hit it," said Cuzzupoli, who worked on both the Apollo and shuttle programs for the former Rockwell International.

Inspecting the outside of an orbiting shuttle will be difficult, Cuzzupoli said, and knowing where debris struck will save time and reduce the risk of, say, banging the boom against the spacecraft and causing even more damage.

The sensors have never been used on a shuttle before. They would be linked to an on-board computer and detect blows from debris during launch and the rest of the mission as well, Cuzzupoli said. The information would be relayed instantly to flight controllers.

NASA's latest target for resuming shuttle flights is next September or October. The independent task force was assembled by NASA last summer to help the space agency meet the Columbia investigators' recommendations for returning to flight.

Another task force member, Sy Rubenstein, an aerospace consultant who helped design the shuttle, said installing the sensors is not a requirement for resuming shuttle flights. But he anticipates NASA will complete the work in time for the next launch.

News in Brief

Developments in quantum computing

In a further step towards quantum computing, Harvard University physicists have been able to pause light for a fraction of a second and then allow it to continue on its original path. Previously, light pulses had only been able to be stored in atoms of gas.

By stopping light, which normally travels at approximately 186,000 miles per second, physicists hope that the accomplishment will pave the way in research towards quantum computers and quantum cryptography.

Mr. Bajcsy told *BBC News Online* that "in [quantum computers] you would have to transfer the information from photon to photon to photon. And in order to do that you have to make the photons interact with each other such that you could control it precisely." To be able to have this interaction, it would require being able to control light.

The main benefits of quantum computing appear in cryptography where it would provide extremely secure forms of electronic encryption. If an electronic message was intercepted, then errors would be introduced, thus garbling the message.

As Professor M. Suhail Zubairy explained to *BBC News Online*, "this would allow you to exchange a key on a public channel, but whereas any classical system can be broken by an eavesdropper, in quantum cryptography you would always find out if someone was looking at your message."

Hi-tech lemon juice

A Japanese creation that has finally come to the market may make environmentalists worldwide rejoice- the first erasable computer ink. Toshiba, best known for its computers, printers, and the hard-drives that power Apple's iPod, is rolling out a new, carbon-free ink that can be erased using its portable eraser machine.

Toshiba's "e-blue" technology reverses the chemical bonding that happens during thermal printing, removing the text and images pressed on to the paper by lasers and inkjets. The "e-blue" ink can be printed on any type of paper, and all that a user must do is replace their standard ink or toner with a special cartridge.

Pages printed with Toshiba's revolutionary ink appear in blue to distinguish them from normal ink. Then, by using the special erasing machine, the pages are heating to about 280 F, forcing the chemicals within the ink to break down, turning the ink invisible.

In Japanese tests, the erasing machine was able to erase about 500 pages of paper in less than three hours with little damage to the paper itself. Mr. Nagaki of Toshiba told *BBC News Online* that companies in Japan have been able to cut paper costs by 60%. He continued by saying that "it [has] also contributed to a reduction in wasted paper because employees reuse the papers which are printed by e-blue toner about five to six times before recycling them in the normal way."

While only available in Japan for the moment, Toshiba announced that it will consider marketing it in Europe as well as develop a photocopier able to use the technology. We can only hope that this technology makes its way to the U.S. and becomes widely adopted.

by Aram Kudurshian '06

Arts & Entertainment

HT Chen and Dancers Return to Hamilton

Clinton, NY — HT Chen and Dancers will return to Hamilton College on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. in Minor Theater, to present a program that celebrates the modern dance company's 25th anniversary. The program will include excerpts from *Opening the Gates* (1993) and *Warriors of Light* (1998) in addition to *13 Sounds, 25 Years*, a short documentary film about the 25 year history of HT Chen and Dancers.

The excerpt from *Opening the Gate* reinvents traditional elements such as "13 Sounds," the small flower drum, and Chinese martial arts movements to explore individual and societal search for self and humanity. *Opening the Gate* was supported through the NPN Creation Funds, and co-commissioned by Miami-Dade Community College, Painted Bride Art Center, and La MaMa E.T.C. NPN is a project of Dance Theater Workshop, and made possible with major funding from the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Warriors of Light is an abstract journey, evoking images of the human spirit as it seeks to attain enlightenment. Traditional props such as lanterns and poles, are used in a contemporary way to lead the path on a spiritual journey. The excerpt of *Warriors of Light* is from a full-length work, which premiered at St. Marks Church in June 1998, with support from the Surdna Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts.

HT Chen and Dancers appeared at Hamilton in 2001 when they performed *Bian Dan* as part of a three-week residency that drew on the talents of community dancers from across the Mohawk Valley. Eighteen children and adult participants and 11 Hamilton College students were included on stage as part of the final production.

HAMILTON PRESS RELEASE

See HT Chen and Dancers perform on Sunday in MinorTheater at 4 p.m.

Chen and Dancers is an innovative modern dance company, which has created a brilliant Chinese-American expression by embodying the cultural heritage of bold nations. The company has enchanted audiences across the U.S., Europe and Asia. Their a dynamic fusion of the spirited energy of American modern dance and the poise of traditional and contemporary Asian aesthetics is the outgrowth of Shanghai-born Artistic Director H.T. Chen's background in ballet, modern dance and traditional Chinese dance.

This presentation is a project of the Mohawk Valley Dance Partnership, which combines the talents and resources of three community partners: Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Hamilton College and the Central New York Community Arts Council Arts in Education Institute.

Tickets are $6 for adults, $4 for senior citizens and students and $3 for Hamilton College students. Seating is limited in Minor Theater and reservations are recommended. For reservations and more information call the Department of Theatre and Dance at 859-4057.

Emerson's Käthe Kollwitz Exhibit Reviewed

Alex R. Taylor '07 brings you his latest opinions on art

After walking through the cheerful nostalgia of 1968 exhibition at the Emerson Gallery, a single look at the Gothic moroseness of Kathe Kollwitz is enough to make one walk straight back to Robert Indiana in the hopes of cheering up. Don't. If Kathe Kollwitz looks like a bad trip in comparison to Haight Ashbury and Jefferson Airplane album covers, its because the art of Kollwitz exists alongside that of Goya and Duamier as some of the few graphic work that aesthetically approach the nightmare of modern history.

Kollwitz didn't have to look very far for inspiration, having the (mis)fortune of having been born alongside the spiked helmets and Krupp canon of Imperial Germany, and to die among the ruins of the Third Reich in 1945. At times startlingly jagged, Kollwitz's art inherits the hollow sobriety of the great Northern artist Edvard Munch and is among the most forceful art of the German Expressionists, including Ludwig Kirchener whose work Kollwitz's appeared alongside earlier this year at the Museum of Modern Art.

Kollwitz's woodcut prints-works such as *Woman on the Lap of Death* (1921) and *Self Portrait* (1923)- are masterful; complete articulations of form through a few tense lines ranging from graceful sinew to brusque thickness. And the origin of Kollwitz's images - carved out of wood- lend her work a violence that is echoed in persuasive darkness of her dark background, an embryonic despair that envelopes even her lithographs. Stark with its formal reduction and abbreviation of human form, the Krieg series of 1922 is some of the most forward-looking art of the Weimar period and *Das Volk* appears to be the stylistic template for Ingmar Bergman's *Seventh Seal*. Kollwitz's The Volunteers, with its willful distortion of human form that seams to strain under the heavy sack of the sky, calls to mind the totem figures of medieval Germany and the intense sickness of Grunewald. Of course those figures were products of medieval Religious-ness, distorted vertically they all looked to heaven. Kollwitz's figures sag, bend, and sink.

ONTHEHILL.HAMILTON.EDU

See *Self Portrait* fromthe Emerson Gallery's exhibit: *Krieg!: Käthe Kollwitz and Images of War* until February 22.

Kollwitz's pathos can be too much, and I find nearly all of her children lithographs sentimental and suffocating. Where as the aesthetic stylization of dead soldiers calls to mind the anonymity of war and death, Kollwitz's children seem all drawn from the same photo of lil' Jackie Coogan with winsome eyes and helpless stairs. The three prints by Swiss/French artist Felix Vallotton are oddly neutral as the artist renders the horrors of war through heavy, arched outlines resemble the ironic fists and explosions by Lichtenstein across the hall and The Charge looks alot a Tin Tin comic.

Within the context of show dedicated to Kollwitz's, the appearance of American George Bellow is equally puzzling. While the best of Bellow's painting such as *Stag at Sharkeys* (1909) at the Cleveland Museum are strikingly brutal exercises in figurative abstraction, his *Last Victim* (1918) is half-rate propaganda filled with wide eyed screaming women surrounded by the lumbering, ape like Hun. There is a sexual fear of racial contamination lurking through out several of Bellow's work at the Emerson Gallery that are especially bewildering considering the claim that Kollwitz's work "stands today as perhaps the only visual articulation of a woman's perspective on war." If the Emerson Gallery is intending an ironic juxtaposition of Kollwitz's maternity and Bellow's sexual roughhouse they are not giving any hints.

Hamilton Artists: Peter Van Siclen '06

Elana Zak '07 talks with a Hamilton Musician

This week I interviewed Peter Van Siclen. Peter is a native of Vermont and a majors in Music. Some of you might know him from *50 Cent Spuds*, which played at HamJam last week.

Spec: Why did you decide to major in Music, and what do you hope to accomplish with it?

PVS: Being a music major means that I end up locking myself in a practice room or the recording studio for several hours each week. I am working on writing and recording music for my Music for Contemporary Media class, and I plan on being an intern at a recording studio in New York City next January. I've always played instruments, but in high school I began to write and record music, and I started playing in several bands. I also would teach music at the summer camp I work at, and I realized that music was the one thing I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I plan on either teaching music or working in a recording studio after I graduate.

Spec: Tell us more about the music you write. Which of your compositions is your favorite?

PVS: I first started writing music when I was in the band *Ted Only Knows* in high school. I wrote several tunes with my friend Jon Granoff for our senior projects in high school. My favorite composition would most likely be "Solar Slide," a slow gospel funk with a Latin bridge, which I wrote last summer after watching the sun set on top of Mount Washington. As cheesy as it seems, I tried to recreate the sound of the sun setting by using a descending chord progression for the melody and move to more dissonant darker sounds as night approaches. I think it is my favorite piece because it is my most recent one. I'm sure that when I finish the tune I am working on now it will become my new favorite. I still have a lot of room for growth with the music that I write, but I enjoy learning. I'm looking forward to taking a class on composition next semester. One thing I know for sure is that I will never ever ever ever ever ever write a song about Sibbie!

Spec: Where did your interest and love for music stem from?

PVS: My mother is a music therapist and so I've been exposed to many types of music since I was young. My parents got me to play the violin when I was seven years old. I switched to sax later on. My love of music began when I first saw Joshua Redman play live at Dartmouth College in 1996. He played with such passion and emotion, something that I had never seen in live jazz before (I didn't get many chances to see live jazz while growing up in Vermont). He combined many styles of music, but it still fell under the larger title of jazz.

Spec: What instruments do you play? Which do you like best?

PVS: My main instruments are tenor saxophone and flute. I also play alto sax, alto flute, guitar, and

see Music, page 13

Movie News: *The Return of the King*

Many people accuse the media of bias in their news coverage. Some claim it is liberally biased while others claim it is conservatively biased. The media always refutes these claims. However, I will admit here and now that there is a *Lord of the Rings* bias in the A&E section of The Spectator. I know that there has been ample coverage of this film throughout the semester, but (perhaps as a result of this bias) I feel that these films deserve the coverage, as the production of this film, the release, and the reaction represent the first true film event of this generation. And it is for that reason that I announce with geeky delight as well as great sadness that next week (finals week) on Wednesday, December 17th the final installment in *The Lord of the Rings Motion Picture Trilogy - The Return of the King* will be released in theaters across the globe.

It is well known that all three films of this trilogy were filmed simultaneously, but I don't think people truly realize what a brilliantly idiotic idea this really was. New Line Cinema put $300,000,000 and the future of their company into the hands of a crazy New Zealander who was responsible for what could be considered a very tiny list of well received films (such as *Heavenly Creatures*) as well as an array of strangely sadistic cult films (*Brain Dead*). Whatever possessed them to do this I will never know, but today it stands as one of the best decisions in moviemaking history. That director, Peter Jackson, proved to be worthy of New Line's trust. The first film, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, took in $860 million worldwide and the second film, *The Two Towers*, took in $920 million worldwide. This latest movie has the chance of crossing the $1 billion mark.

When you see the way these people have worked, regardless of what you may think of the films or Tolkien's story, you can see evidence of real passion and love of storytelling. It doesn't surprise me that over 100,000 people lined the streets of Wellington, NZ for the film's premiere. It's clear that these films are moving people.

So far the advanced word on this film is phenomenal. Peter Jackson has been repeatedly saying that the best *Lord of the Rings* film will be the last one and from the reviews it seems that he wasn't lying. Time Magazine critic Richard Corliss has summed up best what everyone seems to think about the film: "The second half of the film elevates all the story elements to Beethovenian crescendo. Here is an epic with literature's depth and opera's splendor - and one that could be achieved only in movies. What could be more terrific?" Another thing that has been repeatedly mentioned in reviews is Sean Astin's character - Samwise. Now as much as I have a *Lord of the Rings* bias, I have an even greater Sam bias. He has always been my favorite character and I've also always considered him to be the central character of Tolkien's story. Tolkien himself referred to Sam as the "chief hero." Thus, it delights me that every review mentions Astin's performance and says that Sam takes center stage in this film. Though I don't really see this happening, many of the reviews suggest that Astin should be nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

That brings us to another subject: The Oscars. Many are predicting that *King* will win Best Picture this year in an effort to honor Jackson for the entire trilogy (which the Academy Awards has snubbed for the past two years when it came to the major awards). Will this happen? I don't know. The reviews are great, but things can always change before Oscar night and they usually do. I think it would be a big mistake to not give Jackson a Best Director award, but what do I know? In the end, the Oscars don't matter. Countless films have been beaten by lesser films in the years when they were released, so in many ways to lose the Best Picture Oscar is becoming more of an honor than winning it.

For those who felt that the past two installments have been overly long, well you might want to consider skipping this one. *The Return of the King* is 3 hours and 12 minutes long. The original cut of the film was 4 hours and 15 minutes, and while I would have definitely gone to see that cut if it was opening next Wednesday, I guess not as many others would. Yet, with that much footage cut from the film, fans of the book may be looking for their favorite sequences to be in the film. Unfortunately , some will have to wait for the Extended Edition. Here are a few of the things that you may want to see in the film but wont until next November (don't read this if you don't want to know anything before you see the movie!): 1.) Saruman - there is no scene featuring the White Wizard (the palantir is in, but Saruman won't be seen.) 2.) The Houses of the Healing 3.) The Mouth of Saruon 4.) The Scouring of the Shire (this wasn't filmed at all).

So that is just a little bit of information to whet your appetite before you see the film. When you do, you will be seeing the culmination of not only three movies, but close to seven years of painstaking labor by a devoted group of people. It's amazing the amount of work we put into our art and we don't appreciate the amount of energy and heart that has been put into the finished project. I'm touched that we have people who work for the art itself, it's a rare thing these days in the world of mainstream film to see a movie that wasn't made with only dollar signs in mind. It's clear that the filmmakers, actors, and crew have tried to give us something special. On December 17 many people will take part in what has been the defining cinematic event of our generation. In 10 or 15 years, film directors will claim that they were inspired to make movies because of these films, so enjoy this experience while it lasts because we may not get to have the same type of experience for a long time.

By Brian Sweeney '06

WWW.MOVIEPUBLICITY.COM

(Left) A weary Samwise cradles an even wearier Frodo Baggins. (Above) An army of angry Mumakil march to the gates of Minas Tirith during the Battle of the Pelennor Fields.

More with Hamilton Musician Van Siclen '06

from Music, page 12

tin whistle. I teach steel drums at the summer camp I work at, and I've played in a hand bell choir at my church at home. I guess you could say learning instruments is addictive. Once I got started, it was hard to stop. I'm not very good at many of my secondary instruments but I enjoy playing them and coming up with musical ideas that are unique to each instrument. I'm still learning new instruments at the moment, just for fun. I've been trying to pick up the clarinet, since I love the sound of bass clarinet, and I've been taking basic keyboard skills. I love using the keyboard for writing music because it is so visual.

Spec: What types of music do you listen to?

PVS: I love listening to jazz, funk, and blues. I am a big fan of music that makes you want to move but also has interesting melodic content. Thoughtful and emotional solos are also very important in the music that I listen to. I have also been listening to bluegrass, African, Celtic, and classical music recently. I do not enjoy Nu-Metal because I can't find any interesting melodies, and I can't get excited about the soloing. It isn't that I am not a fan of heavy music; I love *Rage Against the Machine*. I just don't find Nu-Metal very interesting. When Tom Morello (of *Rage*) solos, he is always experimenting and trying new things. I love music that is experimental and overflowing with creativity.

Spec: Why do you love to play music?

PVS: One of the best feelings in the world is when I am soloing on a song that I love. It is so exciting and it's a great outlet for emotions. It's also a great way to relieve stress. I feel like music is such an immediate art. Although it can be analyzed, you feel the emotions in the music right at the time the notes hit your ears. That is why I enjoy listening to music so much. It brings me great joy and it can also bring out other emotions I am having. I definitely believe that music can be used for healing, especially since my mom is a music therapist. She works with people who are suffering from Alzheimer's, have been in accidents, or suffer from various other ailments. She plays music for them to trigger memories or emotions. Music can be so powerful and mysterious.

Spec: Do you feel like Hamilton does a good job bringing music to the campus?

PVS: When I came to Hamilton to visit one big thing I noticed was that the school brings in a lot more jazz than other schools of its size. There are some great artists that come here, but I still would like to see more music on campus. I also would be happy if there were more jambands that came to campus. All things considered, I think that Hamilton has a great music department and does a wonderful job of bringing interesting, talented musicians to campus.

Spec: How did you get involved with *50 Cent Spuds*? Tell us about the band.

PVS: When I came to campus last year for January Admit orientation I met John Frazier and Charlie Kaier. They both had been playing guitar together since high school and Charlie had been writing several songs. We began jamming last semester. We've been playing and writing a lot of jazz, funk, and rock. We are still looking for a drummer, so if any of you out there want to play in a jamband email me at pvansicl. I love getting to use effects on my sax so jambands are a lot of fun for me. Right now, I'm using a harmonizing pedal, and an envelope filter for "wah" sounds. Using the pedals, I can get the sound of two saxes out of one instrument. I can also fill the role of the bassist in the group if I use the harmonizing pedal.

A community begins to bid farewell to a legend

Following last week's announcment of basketball coach Tom Murphy's retirement, the Sports Editors have recieved an outpouring of support from alumni. In honor of coach Murphy's oustanding career, we are printing a pair of letters from Hamilton alumni thanking coach for his contributions.

Coach Murphy was an integral part of my maturation process during my time on the Hill. Being around Coach Murphy allowed me to learn from all experiences during my time at Hamilton, both good and bad. Having grown up in Boston and coming to Hamilton knowing only that Coach Murphy had built a successful basketball program, but with no idea of the magnitude of his direct personal and professional impact he has on past and present players, the community, other coaches, and anyone who is fortunate enough to learn from him, I was astounded to see in just my first few months at Hamilton what an unbelievable teacher and mentor this man is.

I graduated in '97 and was co-captain of the basketball team. I learned more from Murph in 4 years in the basketball program about work ethic, life, discipline, loyalty, and friendships than I have learned anywhere else besides the home my parents provided to me growing up. In addition to my parents, family, and wife, I credit a large part of my professional and personal success to Coach Murphy.

Coach Murphy is one of the few people I have seen at Hamilton who has successfully bridged the gap in the community and allowed people to feel included in the Hamilton community. This is no more evident than when attending a Friday night basketball game in the dead of winter at the Scott Field House. Just look at how many local fans attend week in and week out. Coach has had an astounding impact on the community and basketball in the Central New York region on behalf of Hamilton College. Not having grown up in NY this was something that became even more clear to me in the year following my graduation when I was the assistant basketball coach at SUNY Potsdam. While still learning the ropes about recruiting and the job, the ability for me to walk into a high school gym and talk to athletic directors, high school coaches, parents, fans, players, and other college coaches in the area was always made much easier by initially letting people know that I played at Hamilton College for Tom Murphy. It was instant credibility because of Coach's reputation for producing not only good teams, but also more importantly quality individuals with a strong work ethic and sense of community. Hamilton is losing a valuable ambassador to the local region.

Another important piece of Coach Murphy's legacy that stands out is the tight-knit Hamilton basketball alumni. I have met and stay in touch with >unbelievable guys that I never even played with...people whom I've been fortunate enough to meet through Murph and other Hamilton basketball players. I travel frequently for work and on more than one occasion have run into Hamilton basketball alumni with whom an immediate bond is made because >each person knows the other has been shaped and molded by Coach Murph. Friends of mine who played at other colleges always are always astounded and >impressed by how tight the Hamilton basketball community is, and how everyone is willing to help each other out. Another credit to Coach Murphy.

Although I do not yet have all the details of his "retirement" I hope that the school understands how big of a role athletics and a mentor like Coach Murph can play in the development of a young adult, and a college. Instead of trying to snuff out athletics and the competitive spirit, Hamilton should look to schools such as Williams and Amherst who are doing a magnificent job of combining athletics, community, and academics. Coach Murphy is the one guy at Hamilton who can help pull it off.

Regards,

Patrick Mulholland '97

I am writing in response to the College's recent announcement of Coach Tom Murphy's retirement.

Thomas Huxley, the noted British biologist, wrote "Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly." I believe this quote best sums up Tom Murphy's philosophy as an educator, and the ethic he worked so hard to instill in his student-athletes during his tenure as professor and coach at Hamilton College.

Tom did not always have the best athletes manning his teams throughout 30+ years of coaching. What he did have, though, were men that believed in their coach's philosophy of hard work, doing the right thing, and putting the success of the team before the accomplishments of any one individual. This is a philosophy that carried these men well beyond their playing days at Hamilton. In fact, Coach Murphy can boast that his "boys" now hold distinguished positions in the fields of business, education, medicine, as well as athletics.

Tom Murphy is much more than the men's basketball coach at Hamilton College. He is a mentor and friend to two generations of present and former student-athletes, and not just to those honored enough to have come under his direct tutelage as a member of basketball team. I dare say Tom Murphy has had a positive "real" influence on more alumni than any current member of the Hamilton faculty and/or staff. I hope and trust that the administration recognizes what so many of us already know, and deem it appropriate to honor the man that has done so much for so many during his years at Hamilton College, and do so in a manner that befits his vast accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Thad Ziemba, '87

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	Small	Large
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1 Item	6.75	9.95
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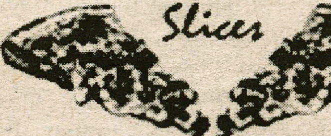
3 Items	7.75	11.95
4 Items	8.50	12.95

Small = 8 pieces Large = 16 pieces

Items
Broccoli, Eggplant, Sausage, Mushrooms, Pepperoni, Peppers, Onions, Meatballs, Spinach, Anchovies, Double Cheese, Black Olives



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Men's hockey routes St. Michaels, wins 9-4

by Andrew DeCastro '05
SPORTS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, the men's hockey team defeated Utica College 5-2 at the Utica Auditorium. Head Coach Gary Heenhan, a hockey alum and former assistant at Hamilton, always has his team fired up to play the Continentals. Hamilton, in front of a hostile and energetic crowd at Utica, responded well and dominated the first two periods of hockey.

Early on, Utica used their adrenaline to their advantage and kept the game close throughout the first period. Finally, Scott Gordon '04 got Hamilton on the board with his third goal of the season. In the second period, Hamilton began to take the game over, scoring the next two goals. Gus Katsuras '06 and Jim Nolan '07 tallied for the Conts in the second period. Nolan's goal proved to be the game winner for Hamilton.

Head Coach Phil Grady talked about the team's preparations that led to early success.

"Our philosophy heading in was that we're going to play good defense. Our goal was to hold that to 21 or less shots, and two or less goals. We didn't even talk about scoring or winning. We talked about doing the job we needed to do with our in the offensive end with our forechecking, solid defense, and great back-checking."

Despite playing flawlessly in nearly all facets of the game, Hamilton's frequent penalties allowed Utica to get back into the game. Hamilton had four penalties in the second period, forcing the Conts to shorten up their bench and constantly put their specialists on the ice. Because Hamilton's special team's players had to double shift and work extra hard in the defensive zone, they began to run of gas. Finally, in the third period, the penalties caught up to Hamilton, and Utica scored two unanswered goals in the period to get them back into the game. Captain Jeff Corey however, fearing a recurrence from the game against Babson, put the game away by firing it past the Utica goaltender.

Last Saturday, The Conts traveled Vermont to face a very improved St. Michaels team. Hamilton was up to the task. The Conts, after being one goal down, got the lead back after two goals were scored by Hamilton blue liners, Scott Gordon '04 and Ricky Reichenback '06. Most importantly, after the Conts got the lead, they maintained it and put the game away, one aspect the Continentals have struggled doing this season. Coach Grady was happy with the team's performance after a tough loss to Norwich the night before.

"We mentally regrouped well after the Norwich game. We did a lot of thing very well. We used our speed and skill. Our emphasis going into the game against St. Michael's was composure. We did a good job using our systems, and because we executed our systems well, they were forced to take penalties."

On Friday, however, the Continentals had their hands full with the top Division III team in the nation. Norwich, raising its national championship banner before their game, had over two thousand fans to show support. Always a hostile environment, Norwich used their adrenaline, speed, and skill to dominate the Continentals for two periods.

Grady was impressed with the Norwich team on Friday.

"Norwich has a lot of depth and skill, and they play with a great amount of confidence. They are continuous for sixty straight minutes. If you make mistakes or let down, they are going to capitalize and take advantage."

After being down five goals, Hamilton regained some pride and scored two goals in the third period. Grady was proud of his team's positive attitude after being down two periods. The Conts ended up battling back and beat Norwich in the third period.

With some time off before their next game, and by coming back from break early, the Continentals will have the luxury to work on some areas that have been on the minds of the coaching staff. Clearly offense is not a problem; the Continentals average over five goals a game. Grady raves about the balance of his team, and the numbers back up Grady's comments. If you look at the score sheet, players from all years and defenseman contribute to the scoring attack. If Hamilton continues to utilize their balance and speech, they can simply outwork and overmatch opponents.

One key issue that the Conts will need to improve over break is on the defensive side. At times the Conts are giving up too many odd man rushes, and too many players find themselves getting caught too deep in the offensive end. Grady and the coaching staff plan to emphasize defense over break. Once they eliminate the odd man rushes, and buy into the systems implemented by the coaching staff, Hamilton will be a tough team to beat in NESCAC play.

Women's hockey wins a pair against Trinity

by Michael Osborne '05
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the past week, the women's hockey team has played three games. They hosted the Bantams of Trinity College last Friday and Sunday in their first two home games of the season. On Tuesday, the Lady Conts traveled to Utica to take on Utica College in an afternoon battle at the Utica Aud. The Continentals ended the week with 2 wins over Trinity, and they suffered a tough defeat to Utica. Overall, the Lady Continentals sit at 3-2 for the season.

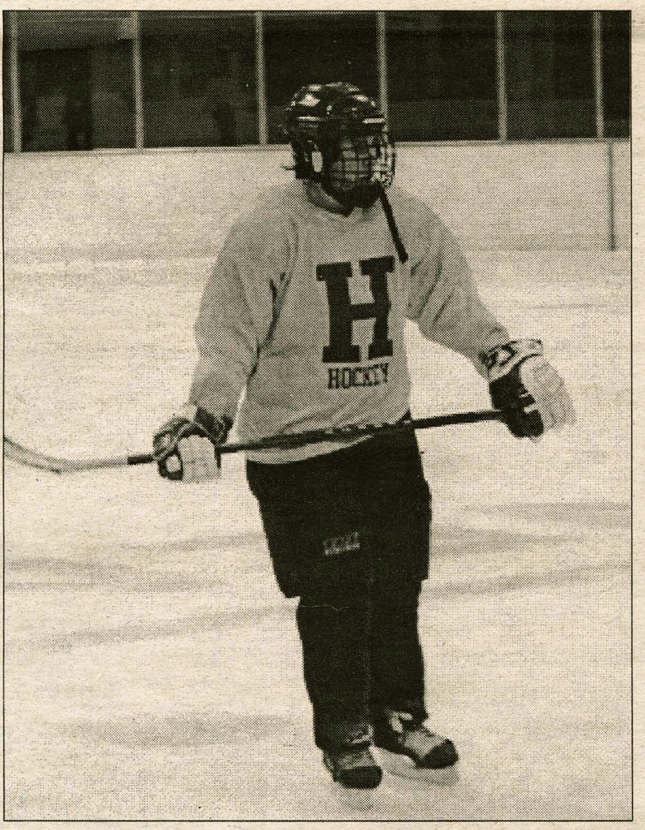

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Hamilton's three game win streak came to an end.

On Friday night, Hamilton came ready to play. The Lady Conts were excited for the first home game of the season, which was played in front of a decent crowd. The Continentals jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a power play goal by Marissa Halligan '05, with an assist going to Sarah Baldwin '04. The Continentals fired 44 shots at Trinity goaltender, Mimi MacKinnon, and put 4 of those shots in the back of the Trinity net. Jess Moran '05 led the offense with 2 goals in the 2nd period. Moran's first goal was assisted by Zoe Baldwin '06 and Eden Self '04. Baldwin and Kristina Carroll '07 picked up assists on Moran's second goal. Also picking up a goal on the night was Baldwin, with an assist from Self. The Continentals improved on their defensive zone coverage from their first two games, and held Trinity to 17 shots. Caitlin Connelly '07 picked up her first collegiate shutout in earning the victory.

The offensive output by the Lady Conts continued over into Saturday afternoon as they rung up another four goals on the Bantams. However, on Saturday Trinity came to play as well, and the Continentals battled for a 4-2 victory. Pacing the offense was Zoe Baldwin, Jess Moran, and Marissa Halligan. All three players earned a goal and an assist on the afternoon. Also picking up points for the Lady Conts were Kristina Carroll (1 goal), Lindsay Bartz '07 (1 assist), and Emma Dunn '07 (1 assist). Stefanie Whalen '06 picked up her first victory of the season in her first start making 11 saves. Coach Bryant liked the intensity and the improvements that her team made in the d-zone. She also liked how her team is "putting the puck in the net."

The Continentals are averaging an impressive 4 goals per contest.

Tuesday afternoon wrapped up the 1st semester for the Lady Conts, which unfortunately did not end on a positive note. Hamilton fell to the Pioneers of Utica College by a score of 6-3. Utica jumped out to a 6-1 lead after two periods, and never looked back. Hamilton scored two in the 3rd to close out the scoring. Picking up goals for the Continentals were Eden Self, Emma Dunn, and Lindsay Bartz. Picking up assists for the Lady Conts were Erica Colligan '06, Self, and Sarah Baldwin. Connelly took the loss in the net for the Continentals, despite making 34 saves.

Coach Bryant responded to the Utica game by saying, "Our power play was excellent, going 3 for 4 on the night. Overall, we just lacked some intensity at pressure points of the game. In particular, when we scored a goal, and not coming back as hard as I would have liked to see, and when they scored a goal and not responding the way that we should have. However, the girls played well, and there were just a couple of minutes that killed us, and they scored all of their goals. However, Utica was a great team, who played well, and who has a lot of depth. It will be a great game in February when they come to play us."

The Utica game wrapped up the 1st semester for the Lady Conts as we head into exam week and then Christmas break. Hamilton will be back in action on January 6, 2004 when they face R.I.T. After R.I.T, the Conts get into the brunt of their schedule when they play the top three teams in the NESCAC (Middlebury, Bowdoin, and Williams), and then face the defending National Champions of Elmira College. The team knows that they are not playing as well as they could, and they will look to improve on that as they head into the 2nd semester. Overall, the Lady Conts sit at 3-2, and in 3rd place in the NESCAC, which they look to build on as they continue their quest to be one of the top three teams in the NESCAC.

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

The Continentals outscored Trinity 8-2 over two games at home last weekend, winning both games.

Athletes of the Week: Geringer-Dunn '04 and Mald '05

by Andrew DeCastro '05
SPORTS EDITOR

This week's Spectator *Athletes of the Week are Rachler Geringer-Dunn and Sara Mald of the Hamilton College Dance Team. If you think dancing is not a real sport, think again! These ladies have been working hard to distract opposing teams during timeouts and have been quite successful at it.*

Name: Rachel Hilary Geringer-Dunn.
Nicknames: Raquel, Razel, RGD, Rahel, Little Bit.
Year: 2004.
Hometown: Short Hills, NJ.
Major: Sociology.
Hobbies: Hanging out at 2 Marvin with the family, anything Amber Atkins, and DT of course.
Pre-game Rituals: I like to relax with a drink in the downstairs bathroom of the Fieldhouse before I go up and stretch.
Marital Status: I've been saving myself for Andrew DeCastro ever since the first day I saw him in South my sophomore year...so I guess that makes me single unless he ever looks my way.
Favorite player on the basketball team and why: Geoff Tomlinson, because he's a legit player even though he's the shortest player on the team, and that's the story of my life.
What do you say to people who feel being on the dance team is not a sport: Ignorance is bliss.
How long have you been dancing for: Since I was almost three.
Does it hurt when you girls bend like you do: I find it relaxing and satisfying.
Describe the most difficult position you have to do when performing or stretching: I think it's probably the straddle roll backwards and then up to standing; last year, it was "the jump" - flying from a crouched position backwards onto your hands and hitting the floor.
What is the difference between the dance team and cheerleaders: Seriously? We don't do pompoms, lifts, and we don't yell.
Outlook on the team and the upcoming season: We have many returning team members and great new members also - everyone is really committed to learning new/different dances and to constantly improving, which is awesome.
Opinion of Coach Murphy's retirement: I've known Coach Murphy for four years and he has always been so sweet to all of us on the dance team. He even gave all the DT girls Sweet Sixteen t-shirts like the guys got when they made it that far last year. I'm sad to see him leave.
What should a single guy know about you: I have some pretty legit moves and I'm quite flexible.
If you were an animal what would it be: A party animal.
How much time do you personally spend learning the routine in a week: We learn something new material at most practices, and we practice together 2 hours a day 3 days a week.
How hard is it to choreograph the routines that we see: Sometimes it's easy, and sometimes it's brutality. Good music is key because it helps with choreography, and you want everyone to get excited when it comes on.
What are the keys for the men's basketball team to succeed this year: I consulted Liz Aibel on this one, and the answer is "lots of baskets, and clean gym socks."
Finally, how far do you feel the team will advance this year: All the way, baby.

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Who wouldn't stare at thse ladies during timeouts? Opponents spend more time watching the dancers than their coaches.

Name: Sara Mald.
Nicknames: Maldo, Sal, Jer.
Year: 2005.
Hometown: New York City.
Major: Communications.
Hobbies: Dance Fighting, Working on my Music, Decoupage.
Pregame Rituals: Analyzing Flashdance, Footloose, Center Stage, et al.
Marital Status: Single.
Favorite player on the basketball team and why: Ben Jurkiewicz — is he Jewish?
What do you say to be who feel being on the dance team is not a sport: It's not a sport, it's a way of life!
How long have you been dancing for: Since I was 3.
Does it hurt when you girls bend like you do: Not so much.
Desribe the most difficult position you have to do when performing or streching: I would have to say the spread eagle roll over the shoulder move. (It makes more sense if you see it.)
What is the difference between the dance team and cheerleaders: "Cheerleaders are dancers who have gone retarded"
Outlook on the team and the upcoming season: We have stepped it up this year and we are really excited to perform and support the basketball team and its fans.
Opinion of Coach Murphy's retirement: He's done a lot for the team and he will be missed.
What should a single guy know about you: 36-24-36.
If you were an animal what would it be: A cocker spaniel
How much time do you personally spend learning the routine in a week: We practice 6 hours a week.
How hard is it to choreograph the routines that we see: It takes a while to choreograph the dances, especially since you have to consider the movement of 18 other people and how it look to the audience.
What are the keys for the men's basketball team to succeed this year: Keep up the good work.
Finally, how far do you feel the team will advance this year: All the way.

Beat the Experts

Beat the "Experts" is by no means associated with organized gambling on professional or college athletics. Each week, we will pick several games in which to choose winners, and we will have a special guest pick winners as well. If any game its in a tie, it is not counted. Last week, the experts combined for a 18-22 record.

	Michael Proia *Spectator* *Sports Editor*	Andrew DeCastro *Spectator* *Sports Editor*	Ian Mandel *Spectator* *News Editor*	Allison Davis *Spectator* *I&I Editor*	Chris McPherson *Junior* *Guest #4*
Last Week's Record:	**4-6**	**5-5**	**6-4**	**3-7**	**5-5**
Season Record:	**18-12**	**18-12**	**13-17**	**18-12**	**12-18**
NFL					
Seattle @ St. Louis 12/14	Rams	Rams	Rams	Rams	Rams
Buffalo @ Tennessee 12/14	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans
San Fransisco @ Cincinatti 12/14	49ers	Bengals	49ers	Bengals	49ers
Pittsburgh @ New York Jets 12/14	Jets	Jets	Jets	Steelers	Steelers
Philadelphia @ Miami 12/15	Dolphins	Eagles	Eagles	Eagles	Eagles
College Basketball					
#1 Florida @ #25 Louisville 12/13	Gators	Gators	Gators	Gators	Cardinals
#4 Missouri @ #18 Gonzaga 12/13	Bulldogs	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers
#2 Kentucky @ #20 Michigan State 12/13	Spartans	Spartans	Wildcats	Wildcats	Wldcats
NHL					
Boston @ Ottowa 12/13	Bruins	Bruins	Senators	Bruins	Bruins
New Jersey @ Philadelphia 12/13	Devils	Flyers	Flyers	Devils	Flyers

If you think that you can beat these "experts," drop us a line and we will try to get you into the section. Write "I can beat the experts" on a sheet of paper with your name, then fold it and addresс it to the sports editors at *The Spectator*. Drop it in campus mail and if you're selected randomly, you'll quickly receive a form for you to make your picks.
Editor's Note: This week, Alison Davis' picks were made by Nick lund '05, photo editor.

Men's basketball blows out Cazenovia, 94-65

by Michael Proia '05
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team has jumped out to an impressive start this season, earning a 5-1 record through its first six games. The Continentals have played four of those games away from home, showing that they can win on the road against good competition.

Hamilton opened its season with a home game against SUNY IT. The game marked a homecoming of sorts for Nick Grimmer, a junior who transferred from Hamilton to SUNY after his freshman year, and Nick father, SUNY's coach Kevin Grimmer, who had his number retired by Hamilton after playing under coach Murphy in the 70's.

The game was comprised of runs, with each team taking turns trying to seize control. Hamilton led 38-30 at halftime despite Joe Smith '04 converting only one of six field goal attempts. The Continentals dominated the boards however, out-rebounding SUNY IT 30-10 in the first half. Tsakane "TK" Ngobeni '07 led Hamilton with eleven points and eight boards at the break.

SUNY IT jumped out to a quick start in the second half, taking a 41-38 lead on a 11-0 run. The Continentals fought back, however, and used the free throw stripe to their advantage, hitting on seventeen of twenty-three second half attempts. Hamilton put the game out of reach in the final minutes when Smith managed to get to the rim for a pair of open dunks.

"We have good senior leadership, and you saw that down the stretch with Joe stepping up and getting those big buckets," said coach Murphy. "That's a good first win against a very good team."

The late surge was sparked by some added defensive intensity, especially that of Geoff Tomlinson '04, who started in place of an injured Tim Welchons '06.

TK and Smith registered double-doubles; TK finished with twenty-three points and ten rebounds, while Smith added eighteen points and sixteen rebounds. Grimmer led all scorers with twenty-five points, hitting ten of twenty-one field goals. C.J. Cantil '04 added fifteen points and Greg Leone '04 scored eleven in the win.

Hamilton won the battle of the boards in the second half as well, out-rebounding SUNY IT 23-18 for the half.

The outstanding debut for TK made a big difference for Hamilton as Smith struggled throughout most of the game. "I have been waiting for [my first game here] for a year now, and it was a lot of fun," TK said. "If [Joe] is having a tough game, I have to step up, and when I have bad nights, he will step up. We all take up the slack for each other as a team."

After the season-opening win, the team traveled to California over Thanksgiving break

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Hamilton beat Cazenovia last night, much to the satisfaction of coach Murphy.

for a pair of games. The Continentals defeated Pomona-Pitzer 75-71 in double overtime on November 28. Hamilton trailed by four at the half, shooting only 28 percent from the field, but started getting shots to fall in the second half to tie the game and send it into extra time.

After the two teams both scored seven points in the first overtime, Hamilton outscored Pamona-Pitzer 7-3 in the final period to win the game.

Again, Smith and TK led Hamilton with double-doubles, Smith registering 25 points and 17 rebounds, and TK putting up 20 points and 19 boards. Welchons added fourteen points and a game high six assists in his season debut.

The Hamilton players did not get a chance to rest their legs after the game, coming back the next night to take on Claremont Mudd-Scripps. Hamilton won 79-71 behind a big night by Leone. Leone scored a game-high 31 points, hitting ten of eleven free throw attempts to help seal the win. Smith registered his third double-double in three games, with nineteen points and ten rebounds. TK also finished in double figures with twelve points and nine rebounds.

Following the 3-0 start, the Continentals traveled to Middlebury on December 4. The Panthers defeated the Continentals 84-77 thanks to some red hot shooting from the field.

After six minutes, Middlebury held a 23-6 lead, but Hamilton refused to quit and fought back with a 34-14 run over the final 13 minutes of the first half to take a 40-37 into the half. In the second half, Middlebury came out hot again, grabbing a 50-43 lead after five minutes. Hamilton again rallied back to tie the game at 60, but a 10-0 run by Middlebury pushed them back out in front. Facing adversity once again, the Continentals answered the run with a 10-0 run of their own, tying the game at 70, before Middlebury pulled away in the final two minutes.

Middlebury shot 15-31 from three-point range for the game, including seven of eleven by Mike Salek. TK led Hamilton with twenty-three points along with sixteen rebounds, and Smith added twenty-one points, seventeen rebounds and a team-high seven assists. Leone added seventeen points in 38 minutes of play. The difference in the game may have been Hamilton's 6-23 performance from long range, and twenty turnovers.

The Continentals followed the loss to Middlebury with a game at Utica, winning 60-54. Hamilton trailed 34-28 at the half and as many at ten in the second half, but again rallied back and this time took the win.

The Pioneers out-rebounded the Continentals 49-24 for the game, but Hamilton's defense forced 25 turnovers to make up the difference in possessions. TK led Hamilton with 22 points, followed by Smith who had 21 and Leone who had 13. Welchons was sidelined again by an injury, so Tomlinson started in his place at guard, creating ball pressure throughout the game.

Hamilton took on Cazenovia last night at home and dominated the first half of the game. Mike Evans '05 made four of five three point attempts, scoring sixteen points in the first half. The Continentals led 51-21 at the half.

Evans came out hot in the second half as well, hitting on a pair of three in the early going. The Continentals were on cruise control for the rest of the game, concentrating on defense and taking care of the ball on offense.

Hamilton's next game will be at home January 3 against Worcester State. The game will be a tune up for the Hamilton Invitational the next day.

Swim team dominates at UCAA Championships

by Andrew Dassori '07
SPORTS WRITER

This past weekend Hamilton College's swim teams traveled to Union College to take on ten different colleges in a battle for the UCAA title. As they have for the past six consecutive years, they came home victorious.

"I think the chemistry is really special on this team," said coach T.J. Davis. "I believe there exists a nice balance of personalities and there is a real sense of focus on the part of the athletes - the team is tight and collectively works hard to be successful; I think Hamilton swim teams of the past have enjoyed this and I think we are really lucky to have some exemplary leaders in our captains. Kevin [Thompson], Sarah [McDermott], Jeff [Wilson], Liz [Rabe], Jim [Baker], and Brittany [Achin] are the captains and they are really in tune with this team and our collective goals."

Davis also commented on the leadership of the captains. "Our captains are awesome. I lean on them fairly hard and have some lofty expectations for that group. During the team meeting right before our last session at UCAAs, I basically told the team to continue the momentum that they'd built and then I told them that the captains have done an awesome job of firing you up for the first two so let's go for one more!"

Leading the charge for the Continentals' men's swimming team were tri-captains Kevin Thompson '04, Jim Baker '04, and Jeff Wilson '04, who swam middle-distance freestyle, sprint freestyle/butterfly, and the individual medley respectively. After winning the first and second sessions, the men won the meet with 788.5 points and finished almost 150 points ahead of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (639.5 points) to come home with the championship.

The womens team was led by tri-captains Sarah McDermott '04, Brittany Achin '05, and Liz Rabe '04, who swam the backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly/backstroke respectively, to a win in dominant fashion by almost 200 points. They blew out the competition with a total of 946.5 points, with their closest competitor, the University of Rochester, totaling just 749.5 points.

Hamilton's 2nd year head-swimming coach T.J. Davis was named UCAA Coach of the Meet after both the men's and women's teams clinched their respective titles.

Reflecting on the meet, Davis spoke highly of the team, stating: "I'll say in general that the *entire* team performed beyond my expectations and that's tough to do because I have very high expectations." Davis takes pride in his team's cohesiveness, as he reflects, "chemistry is really special on this team. I believe there exists a nice balance of personalities and there is a real sense of focus on the part of the athletes - the team is tight and collectively works hard to be successful."

After his second collegiate meet freshman Nate Emmons '07 commented on the Hamilton swimmers. "The whole team swam very well collectively," said Emmons, "this was a good start to the season but we have a lot of work ahead of us before NESCACs."

This theme seems to be common amongst both the women's and men's teams, as sophomore Emily Clinkhammer stated a similar idea: "UCAAs are a pretty tough meet for us because we haven't had the practice time that the other teams have had." She added, "I think that it says a lot about our team considering we've done pretty well in the past few years. Obviously we've got some work to do before NESCACs but after this meet I can see that as team, we're definitely on the right track."

In addition to their championship, Hamilton's swim teams had multiple record-breaking performances, along with two swimmers qualifying with NCAA B times.

The Hamilton men broke two conference records with their relay teams with times of 1:26.25 seconds in the 200-yard freestyle relay (Lawrence, Warner, Thompson, Saunders), and 3:37.30 in the 400-yard medley relay (Warner, Morris, Wilson, Lawrence). The two national qualifiers were junior Brittany Achin and junior Aaron Lawrence. Achin qualified for the 200-yard breastroke with a time of 2:28.15, while Aaron Lawrence went a 21.35 to qualify for the 50-yard freestyle.

Overall, Hamilton's swim teams finished 1st place in 11 events. The team is poised to be a powerhouse in their upcoming meets against Middlebury College on January 17th at Middlebury, Colgate University on January 23rd at home, and Amherst College on January 24th at home, and is viewed as a contender for the NESCAC championship at Bowdoin College on February 27th.

Hamilton's season is a long way from over, and the team has lofty goals for the rest of the year.

"We are always looking ahead and never want to rest on the laurels of our past accomplishments," said coach Davis. "We have one of the toughest dual meet schedules of any swim team in the Northeast. We will look ahead to swimming a dual meet in Hawaii against a solid team in the University of Puget Sound and then returning to face the likes of Colgate, Amherst, Middlebury, and then on to NESCACs. It's a whirlwind timeline, but one that definitely prepares us to compete at the highest level; if we make some good cut times, we'll have the opportunity to compete at the NCAA championships."